



UNDERSTANDING
SACRIFICE

Activity: Some Gave All



Guiding question:

How did American families cope with the loss of loved ones in the Battle of the Bulge?

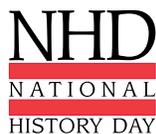
DEVELOPED BY JULIE K. HEINTZ

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Subject(s): Social Studies, English / Language Arts

Cemetery Connection: Ardennes American Cemetery

Fallen Hero Connection: Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes
Private First Class James H. Vrtatko



Overview

In this lesson, students will study the profiles of two men killed in the Battle of the Bulge, Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes and Private First Class James H. Vrtatko. The lesson will allow students to understand the aftermath and meaning of this pivotal military campaign.

Historical Context

After D-Day, Allied forces recaptured most of France within a matter of months. The Battle of the Bulge was a major German counter-offensive campaign launched through the densely forested Ardennes region in Belgium, France, and Luxembourg. The battle began December 16, 1944 and ended on January 25, 1945. German forces pushed back part of the Allied line — the “bulge” in the front line that gave the battle its name. More than 800,000 Allied soldiers fought in the battle, the great majority of them American, and there were 90,000 American casualties (including 23,000 taken prisoner).

Captain Charles Hewes and Private First Class James Vrtatko were both killed during or after the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, the U.S. military set up an identification lab near Ardennes, Belgium to identify remains and bring closure to as many families as possible. Both Hewes and Vrtatko are buried today at Ardennes American Cemetery, along with more than 5,000 of their comrades in arms.

Objectives

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will be able to

- Understand how the Battle of the Bulge impacted American families at home;
- Consider the choices individual families had in regards to their loved ones; and
- Predict and explain why they think families made the choices they did after the war.

“Every individual who fought in World War II has a unique story. This lesson will allow students to study the profiles of two men killed in the Battle of the Bulge. Students will be able to see that behind the sheer numbers are real men—sons, brothers, husbands, friends — who gave their lives for our freedoms.”

— Julie K. Heintz

Heintz is a teacher at The Mississippi School for Math and Science in Columbus, Mississippi.

Standards Connections

Connections to Common Core:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Connections to C3 Framework:

D2.His.1.9-12. Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical contexts.

D2.His.3.9-12. Use questions generated about individuals and groups to assess how the significance of their actions changes over time and is shaped by the historical context.

D4.2.9-12. Construct explanations using sound reasoning, correct sequence (linear or non-linear), examples, and details with significant and pertinent information and data, while acknowledging the strengths and weaknesses of the explanation given its purpose (e.g., cause and effect, chronological, procedural, and technical).

Documents Used ★ indicates an ABMC source

Primary Sources

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946
United States Department of War

Individual Deceased Personnel File, Captain Charles Hewes
United States Department of the Army

Individual Deceased Personnel File, Private First Class James Vrtatko
United States Department of the Army

Newsreel, German Drive Rolled Back by Allies, January 1, 1945

Universal Theater Newsreel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqbURE5a3TE>

Request for Disposition of Remains, Captain Charles Hewes

Individual Deceased Personnel File, United States Department of the Army

Request for Disposition of Remains, Private First Class James Vrtatko

Individual Deceased Personnel File, United States Department of the Army

Secondary Sources

Ardennes American Cemetery Visitor Brochure ★

American Battle Monuments Commission

https://www.abmc.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Ardennes%20508_7-9-2014_0.pdf

Ardennes American Cemetery Website ★

American Battle Monuments Commission

<http://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/ardennes-american-cemetery>

Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes, Fallen Hero profile ★

American Battle Monuments Commission

<http://abmceducation.org/understandingsacrifice/soldier/charles-hewes>

Map, *From Ardennes-Alsace to the Rhine and Beyond* ★

American Battle Monuments Commission

https://www.abmc.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Ardennes%20508_7-9-2014_0.pdf

Private First Class James H. Vrtatko, Fallen Hero profile ★

American Battle Monuments Commission

<http://abmceducation.org/understandingsacrifice/soldier/james-vrtatko>

World War II Interactive Timeline ★

American Battle Monuments Commission

https://www.abmc.gov/sites/default/files/interactive/interactive_files/WW2/index.html

Materials

Introducing the Fallen Heroes

- Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes Fallen Hero profile
- Private First Class James H. Vrtatko Fallen Hero profile
- Map, *From Ardennes-Alsace to the Rhine and Beyond*

Some Gave All

- Correspondence Organizer
- Letters File, Captain Charles Hewes
- Letters File, Private First Class James Vrtatko
- Decision File, Captain Charles Hewes
- Decision File, Private First Class James Vrtatko

Decision

- Request for Disposition of Remains, Captain Charles Hewes
- Request for Disposition of Remains, Private First Class James Vrtatko

Lesson Preparation

Introducing the Fallen Heroes

- Divide the class into two groups.
 - Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the Private First Class James H. Vrtatko Fallen Hero profile for one half of the class.
 - Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes Fallen Hero profile for the other half of the class.
- Project (or print copies of) the map, *From Ardennes-Alsace to the Rhine and Beyond*.

Some Gave All

- Print one copy of the Correspondence Organizer for each student.
- Divide the two larger groups into subgroups of three to four students each.

- Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the Letters File for Captain Charles Hewes for one half of the subgroups.
- Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the Letters File for Private First Class James Vrtatko for the other half of the subgroups.
- Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the Decision File for Captain Charles Hewes for one half of the subgroups.
- Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the Decision File for Private First Class James Vrtatko for the other half of the subgroups.

Decision

- Project (or print a copy) the Request for Disposition of Remains for Hewes and Vrtatko.

Procedure

Introducing the Fallen Heroes (15 minutes)

- To help students understand the context of the Battle of the Bulge, show them the Universal Theater newsreel from January 1, 1945, *German Drive Rolled Back by Allies*.
- Distribute the Fallen Hero profile for Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes to half of the class and the profile for Private First Class James H. Vrtatko to the other half of the class.
- Project for the class a copy of the map, *From Ardennes-Alsace to the Rhine and Beyond*. Point out “The Bulge” and the location of Ardennes American Cemetery.
- Ask students to read their Fallen Hero profile and underline or highlight five to ten details that stood out to them.

Some Gave All (45 minutes)

- Break students into smaller groups (three or four students each) with those who read the same profile.
- Distribute the Letters Files for Captain Charles Hewes and Private First Class James Vrtatko
- Tell students, *When a family member died in World War II, it often took weeks for their loved ones at home to receive the news. For those who were missing in action, the wait could have been even longer. You have in front of you the actual series of letters that were sent between the Hewes and Vrtatko families and the U.S. federal government. You also have investigative reports that military officials would have that would not have been released to the families. While you read these letters, consider the following questions:*

- What were the challenges faced by the family?
- What did the family members want to know?
- What answers were the family given?
- Give student groups time to read and discuss these letters in their smaller groups. Ask them to complete the Correspondence Organizer as they read and discuss.
 - *Teacher Tip:* Observe and listen to student discussions. You may want to consider sharing answers with the whole class or asking one student to summarize their group's findings with the class and have the whole class discuss the similarities and differences between each family's experiences.
 - *Teacher Tip:* Because the Hewes documents do contain one letter written in cursive, assistance might be needed for some students.
- Distribute one copy (paper or electronic) of the Decisions File for Captain Charles Hewes or Private First Class James Vrtatko to each group.
- Explain, *Now you will be presented with the same choices that the families had. In January 1948, Mrs. Mabel Elders and Mrs. Barbara Vrtatko received letters from the federal government asking them to decide what they would like happen to their sons' remains. Once your group has a chance to read the file, discuss what decision you think these families would have made.*
 - *Teacher Tip:* This task could be assigned as homework if desired.
- Encourage each student group to discuss the options and predict what decision they think the Hewes and Vrtatko families would have made.

Assessment

Decision (45 minutes)

- Now it is time to make a decision. Each student or group (at teacher discretion) will now take on the role of Mrs. Mabel Elder or Mrs. Barbara Vrtatko. Using the address for The Office of The Quartermaster General (on page 17 of *Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead*), each individual student or group will write a letter explaining the choice that they would have made for their son.
- Letters may be submitted or presented to the class as time permits.
- After all students have made predictions, project for the class the Request for Disposition of Remains Forms signed by Mabel Elders and Barbara Vrtatko (both chose interment in an overseas cemetery).
- Show the eulogies given for Hewes and Vrtatko at Ardennes American Cemetery in 2015.

- Lead a class discussion. Prompts may include:
 - *Were you surprised at the families' decisions? Why or why not?*
 - *Why do you think the families made this decision? Can you infer any of their intentions from the letters?*
 - *Why did approximately one-third of American families make a similar decision? What factors do you think influenced this decision?*
 - *What would you say to Mabel Elders or Barbara Vrtatko if she were standing here today.*
 - *Teacher tip: Approximately 60% of families chose to have their loved one's remains returned to the United States and only about 40% of those killed rest in U.S. military cemeteries abroad. Today Vrtatko and Hewes rest with 5,323 of our military dead at the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium.*

Methods for Extension

- Students could write journal entries describing the different days' events from their soldier's viewpoint comparing the experience of a medic and the experience of a pilot.
- Students could use the Ardennes American Cemetery Website to learn more about their soldier's final resting place.
- Students could create and answer a Most Often Asked Question sheet for visitors at the Ardennes American Cemetery.
- Students could design a plaque for a visitor's center at the cemetery to honor the sacrifice of their fallen hero.
- The American Battle Monuments Commission maintains U.S. military cemeteries overseas. These cemeteries are permanent memorials to the fallen, but it is important that students know the stories of those who rest here. To learn more about the stories of some of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice, visit www.abmceducation.org/understandingsacrifice/abmc-sites.

Adaptations

- If students need more background on the campaign, encourage them to visit the *World War II Interactive Timeline*. Click "enter," click "1944," and then click "Ardennes-Alsace Campaign."
- Students could work in mixed-ability groups to assist those who are English-language learners.
- Teachers could record audio versions of letters as needed to assist struggling readers.

Fallen Hero Profile: Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes

Name: Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes

Born: March 10, 1921

Died: February 13, 1945

Hometown: Biloxi, Mississippi

Entered the Military: October 1939

Branch of Service: U.S. Army Air Forces

Org Unit: 335th Fighter Squadron, 4th Fighter Group

Rank: Captain

Award(s): Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart



Before the War

Charles Dunbar "Dunny" Lancaster Hewes was born to Charles and Mabel Hewes in Biloxi, Mississippi on March 10, 1921. Hewes graduated from Biloxi High School on May 31, 1939. After graduation, he worked at the local F.W. Woolworth store.

Military Experience

Pilot Training

Hewes enlisted October 1939 in the Army Air Corps and studied meteorology. Even though he did not have the required two years minimum of college, he was allowed to sit for the flying cadet exam. Hewes' initial ten-week flying training program took place at Rankin Field in January 1942. In order to join flight training, Hewes had to start over and elected to be reduced to the rank of private, but soon rose through the ranks to become Aviation Cadet First Sergeant of Company B. He graduated on March 26, 1942.

Next, Hewes moved to the Merced Army Flying School in California and then completed advanced training in Phoenix, Arizona. He was commissioned at Luke Field, Arizona on July 26, 1942. Stationed in Sarasota, Florida, he flew a P-39 Airacobra.

Hewes' sister, Lela, was a First Lieutenant in the Army Nursing Corps. According to a news clipping from the family scrapbook, it is believed that Dunny and Lela were the only brother-sister commissioned officers from Biloxi.

Pacific Theater

Hewes was transferred to New Guinea and served with the 13th Bomber Command, known as the Devil's Own Grim Reapers. Here he fought in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, where Allied Air Forces sent wave after wave of Allied planes to bomb the Japanese. After three days, the Japanese had lost eight transports, four destroyers, and 20 aircraft. Allied losses totaled four aircraft.

In April 1943, Hewes switched from flying a pursuit plane to piloting a "Jimmy Doolittle" B-25 Bomber.

On September 12, 1943, Hewes' bomber dropped a 500 pound bomb sinking a 350 ton freighter in Muschu Harbor, in Papua New Guinea. On December 21, 1943, Lieutenant General George Kenny presented Hewes with the Air Medal. The citation read, "The bombing run was particularly difficult and dangerous because the vessel was anchored close to a larger vessel which was being attacked at the same time by another aircraft."

Battle of Rabaul

In the fall of 1943, as part of Operation Cartwheel, the U.S. Fifth Air Force began a bombing campaign on New Britain, a key port that the Japanese held in New Guinea. Hewes took part in the bombing raid where he was credited with destroying a Japanese Zero.

Back Home

In April 1944, Hewes returned from 17 months in the Pacific Theater, having completed 65 combat missions as a B-25 and A-20 pilot and assistant operations officer. He was assigned to be an instructor pilot in Florence, South Carolina.

On to Europe

In August 1944, Hewes volunteered for foreign duty and was assigned to the European Theater operating out of England. He joined the 335th Fighter Squadron, 4th Fighter Group. Throughout November and December 1944, Hewes flew a series of missions and was promoted to Captain.

Battle of the Bulge

The Battle of the Bulge was a major German offensive campaign launched through the densely forested Ardennes region in Belgium, France, and Luxembourg on the Western Front. Adolf Hitler guaranteed his ground commanders strong air support. During the first three days of the offensive, the Allied air forces and the Luftwaffe met in the skies over the cloud-covered battlefield as the Luftwaffe attempted to get under the low ceilings to support its ground offensives.

In late December 1944, Mabel Hewes received a letter from her son, informing her that his squadron was going to be engaged "on a big push." Hewes would be part of that "big push" when he flew his last mission on December 18, 1944.

Captain McKennon led 17 pilots that day to the Kassel-Frankfurt area. Hewes and the other pilots ran into difficulties due to heavy cloud layers and enemy aircraft. When the squadron returned that evening, Hewes was not with them. According to the Army Air Forces' records, "He did not call in or report any trouble. He was last seen at 4000 feet at or near Giessen at approx. 1430 hours."

According to Missing Air Crew Report 11312, "His Mustang was seen to spiral out of formation while climbing through a cloud bank. Crashed in a moor in Tinholt, Germany suffering a fractured spine. Captured and sent to a hospital." His P-51D Mustang was forced down over Germany, and Hewes had to bail.

The principal doctor at the hospital in Lingen, Germany, reported that Hewes had a "compression-fracture of his vertebral column with following palsy of his bladder and cystis."

Hewes was reported missing in action on December 18, 1944. Short-wave radio listeners had relayed messages to his mother, Mabel Hewes Elder, that Hewes had been taken prisoner.

Fallen Hero Profile: Private First Class James H. Vrtatko

Name: James H. Vrtatko
Born: August 1, 1908
Died: January 22, 1945
Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
Entered the Military: March 20, 1942
Branch of Service: U.S. Army
Org Unit: 326th Medical Company, 101st Airborne Division
Rank: Private First Class
Award(s): Purple Heart

Life Before the War

James H. Vrtatko was born in Chicago, Illinois on August 1, 1908. His parents immigrated to the United States in 1904 and owned a home in a predominantly Czechoslovakian immigrant neighborhood known as Little Village.

His mother, Barbara Vrtatko, was widowed sometime before 1930 and had two other children, Olga and Charles. Vrtatko, the oldest child in the family, did not continue his education beyond grammar school, most likely so he could work and support his family. At the age of 21, he worked as a laborer at a soda fountain and by the time he enlisted in the Army in 1942 at age 33, he was working as a stock clerk.

Military Experience

After his enlistment, he was trained as a glider combat medic in the 326th Medical Company of the 101st Airborne Division. He was with the division from their activation in August 1942.

D-Day

Vrtatko was a part of the D-Day invasion and entered Normandy on a glider to support the regiment in their elimination of German beach defenses. They secured beach exits for infantry troops followed by the capture of Carentan. After Normandy, the company moved to Cherbourg to support the operations there. Due to heavy personnel and equipment losses that the division experienced in Normandy, the 326th was shipped back to England in July where they prepared for Operation Market Garden.

Operation Market Garden

Vrtatko entered Holland on September 17, 1944 by glider and supported the 101st Airborne Division's assault on two German Panzer Divisions in Belgium and the liberation of several Dutch towns from German control. The unit dealt with strong German counter attacks and brutal, close-quarter fighting.

The division was relieved and sent back to France on November 28, 1944 for rest. On December 17, the 326th Medical Company moved by motor convoy to Bastogne, Belgium in order to provide medical care to the 101st Airborne Division in their defense of the Ardennes Forest.

Defense of Bastogne

During the early part of the Allied defense of Bastogne, a German force mistakenly attacked the 326th Medical Division Clearing Station for a short period of 15 minutes. Once given the opportunity, the division commander surrendered the facility on December 19, 1944, and Vrtatko was initially classified missing in action until after the war when more detail was uncovered regarding his capture.



Vrtatko was taken prisoner and transferred to Gerolstein Prison Camp where conditions were abhorrent and disease was common. There he contracted bronchial pneumonia and was transferred to Nettersheim, Germany. On January 22, 1945 his heart failed, and he died.

As a medic, Vrtatko had a very unusual war experience that required an incredible amount of courage not only to be a part of major battles in the European Theater but also to face death and human suffering more intimately than many other soldiers. As a medic, rather than soldiering on to advance mission objectives, he was always running to help others who were wounded. When Vrtatko heard the cry of "medic!" he knew he was heading into the depths of human carnage left in the wake of battle.

Map, From Ardennes-Alsace to the Rhine and Beyond

American Battle Monuments Commission

From Ardennes-Alsace to the Rhine and Beyond

KEY: † Military Cemetery

FRONT LINE DECEMBER 20

FRONT LINE DECEMBER 26

FRONT LINE JANUARY 25

FRONT LINE MARCH 21

FRONT LINE MARCH 21

A B-17 the aircraft of this 35th Bombardment Group (H) Eighth Air Force

Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial

American Battle Monuments Commission

Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial
Forces of the 3rd Armored Division liberated the Neuville-en-Condroz area on September 7, 1944. From its beginning as a temporary cemetery in February 1945, the location became unique, with burials from every major battle in World War II, including the Pacific. The government of Belgium granted its free use as a permanent burial ground in perpetuity without charge or taxation.

American Battle Monuments Commission
This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 25 American cemeteries and 26 memorials, monuments and markers in 16 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, Perishing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that, "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

American Battle Monuments Commission
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201
USA

Ardennes American Cemetery
Route de Condroz, 164
B-4121 Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium
TEL +32 (0) 43 71 42 87
GPS N50 32.513 E5 28.145

ABMC Overseas Operations Office
68, rue du 19 Janvier
92380 Clichy, France
TEL +33 (0) 1 47 01 19 16

For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit www.abmc.gov

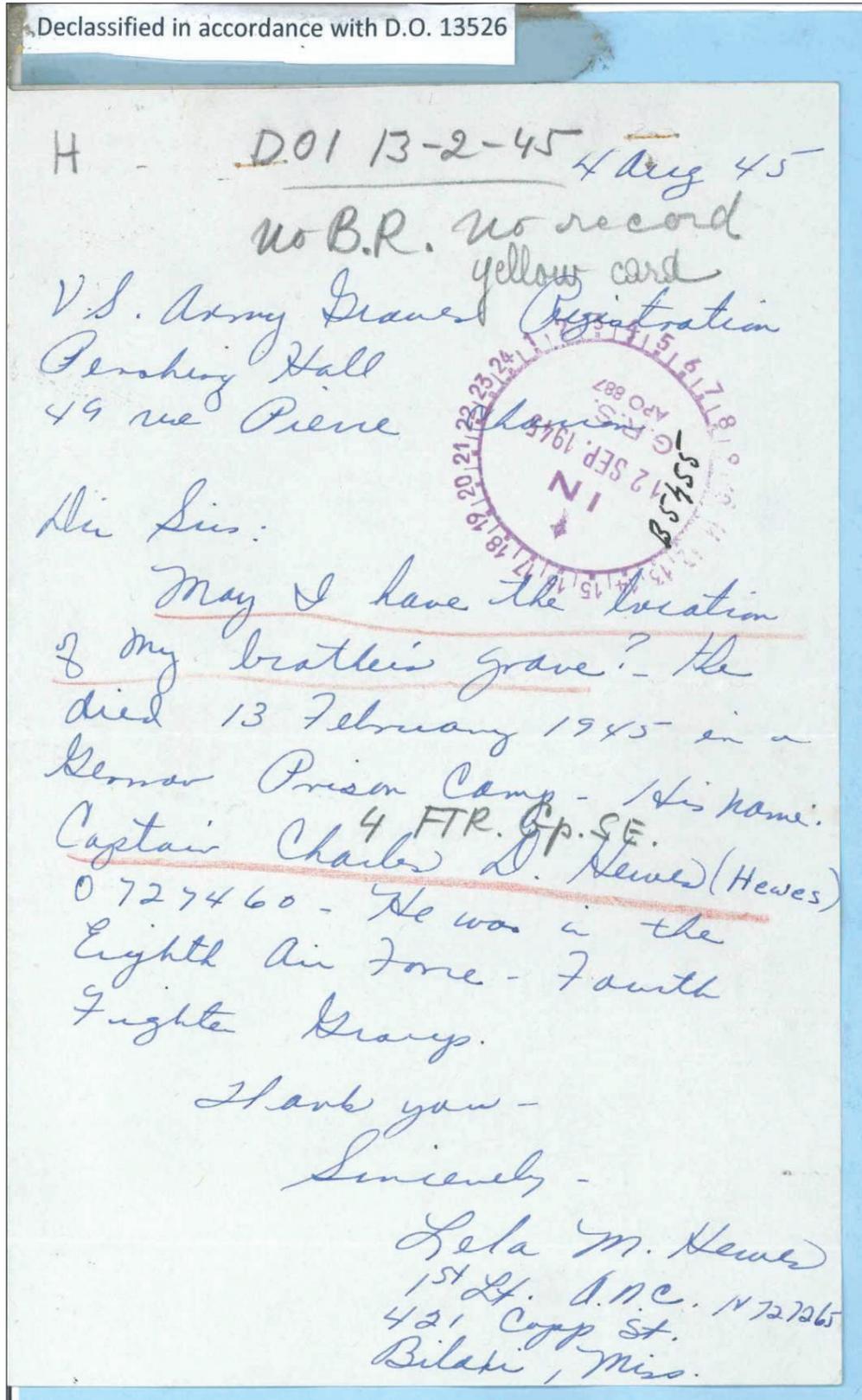
Correspondence Organizer

When a family member died in World War II, it often took weeks for their loved ones at home to receive the news. For those who were missing in action, the wait could have been even longer. You have in front of you the actual series of letters that were sent between the Hewes and Vrtatko families and the U.S. federal government. While you read these letters, consider the following questions:

What were the challenges faced by this family?	What did the family members want to know?	What answers were the family given?

Letters File, Charles Hewes

Letter from First Lieutenant Lela M. Hewes to U.S. Army Graves Registration, August 4, 1945
United States Department of the Army



Letters File, Charles Hewes

Letter from Major James L. Prenn to First Lieutenant Lela M. Hewes, October 22, 1945
United States Department of the Army

Declassified in accordance with D.O. 13526

SPQYG 293
Hewes, Charles D. *on*
S. N. 0727460

22 October 1945

Lieutenant Lela M. Hewes, A.N.C.
421 Copp Street
Biloxi, Mississippi

Dear Lieutenant Hewes:

Your letter has been referred to this office for reply regarding the place of burial of the remains of your brother, the late Captain Charles D. Hewes.

The official report of interment received in this office through the United States Army from the German Government shows that the remains of your brother were interred at Lingen/Ems, Germany. This burial information has not been verified by our Armed Forces, but you will be notified when such verification is made and the remains removed to an established American Cemetery.

Please accept my sincere sympathy in the loss of your brother.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

JAMES L. PRENN
Major, QMG
Assistant

Oct 22 12 45 PM '45
O Q M G
MAIL & RECORDS BRANCH

RECORDED
INDEXED
OCT 22 11 48 AM '45

efj

on

JLP

Letters File, Charles Hewes

Report of Investigation Area Search, May 22, 1946

United States Department of the Army

Note: the family would not have received a copy of this document.

Declassified in accordance with D.O. 13526

7132

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION AREA SEARCH

AGRC Form No. 10 (Revised)
1 January 1946.

Date 22 May 1946

NAME HEWES, CHARLES D. RANK Capt. ASN 0-727460

ORGANIZATION 4th Fighter Group A.A.F.

MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION Identification tag

(All statements above this line will be completed, upon final processing, by the clerical staff at the unit processing point.)

SECTION A – **GENERAL** (To be completed by investigators in all cases)

1. Was positive identity acquired for the deceased through surface investigation? No
If so, state the following information:

a. NAME _____ RANK _____ ASN _____

b. ORGANIZATION _____

2. Was partial identification established? Yes If so, state the facts as to whom you believe the deceased to be:

a. NAME HEWES, CHARLES D. RANK Capt. ASN 0-727460

b. ORGANIZATION 4th Fighter Group, A.A.F.

3. NAMES OF OTHER DECEASED BURIED IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY? Approximately
106 other American airmen
(Use reverse side for listing of crew members from MACR)

a. Date of above burials different dates Common Graves? No

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Letters File, Charles Hewes

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United States Department of the Army

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4. Name and Type of cemetery New Civilian Cemetery
(Military or Civilian)

5. Map Coordinates of the cemetery Sheet K 53, V 7237 GSGS 4346 Scale 1/250,000

a. Town Lingen Country Germany

6. Give exact location in cemetery of the remains.

a. Section None Row 11 Grave 1

b. Is Sketch attached? No

7. If remains are not located in a cemetery, give exact location.

a. Town _____ Coordinates _____

b. Is Sketch attached? _____

c. Is area mined? _____

8. How is the grave marked? Plain white wooden cross

9. If grave is marked with cross, give exact markings thereon Charles Hewes,
Amerik. Flieger Hauptmann * unbekannt + 12.2.45

a. From what source was this information obtained? Cemetery Records
(Identification tags, personal effects)

b. By whom? Cemetery Caretaker

10. Where are the cemetery records? Landratsamt, Landkreis Lingen
(Town Hall, cemetery, burgermeister's office)

a. What information was contained thereon? Hewes, Charles, Amerik. Hauptmann
born 10.3.1921 in Biloxi, Miss. died in Lingen/Ems 13.2.1945

b. Where was the information obtained? Probably from Hewes before he died

c. By whom? Hospital attendants

11. What is the date of death? 13 Feb 1945

a. Give basis? Green Burial Card

12. What is the cause of death? Broken back with complications

a. Give basis? White Death Card and Cemetery Records

13. What is the date of burial? 16 Feb 1945

a. Give basis? White Death Card

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Letters File, Charles Hewes

Report of Investigation Area Search, May 22, 1946

United States Department of the Army

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Sheet K53, V 7237 GSGS
Coords 4346 Scale 1/250,000

14. What was the place of death? Lingen, Germany Coords 4346 Scale 1/250,000
 a. Give basis? Statements of attending physician

15. Where were the remains found? Lingen, Germany Coords same as above
 a. By whom? 6889th QM GR Co.
 b. Is sketch attached? No

16. Was a casket used? Yes Who furnished the casket? Reserve Lazarett Lingen
 Type of casket dark wood How marked? unknown

17. Who made the burial German Military
 (Civilian, American Mil. or German Mil.)
 a. What are the names and addresses? unknown

SECTION B – AIR CORPS DECEASED
 (To be Completed only if deceased is believed to be a member of the AAF)

18. Were remains found in the plane wreckage? This man died in the hospital
 a. Give location in plane from which the bodies were removed
No information is available as to where this plane crashed
 (Tail gunner, pilot, radio, turret, etc., or front, side of plane)
 b. Near wreckage?

19. Scene of crash must be investigated. Give complete results of investigation (if removed, state when and by whom)
 a. Type of plane unknown
 b. Markings and / or name on plane unknown
 c. Give numbers on motors, machine guns, instruments, radios or other equipment:
unknown

20. How did crash occur? unknown Anti-aircraft? unknown
 Enemy planes? unknown Collision? unknown

21. Did plane explode in the air? unknown On ground? unknown

22. Did plane burn in the air? unknown On ground? unknown

23. What was the direction of the flight? unknown

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Letters File, Charles Hewes

Report of Investigation Area Search, May 22, 1946

United States Department of the Army

Note: the family would not have received a copy of this document.

Declassified in accordance with D.O. 13526

24. What was the civilian opinion regarding destination of plane? unknown

25. Had bombs been released prior to the crash? unknown

26. Does specific time and date of crash correspond with date of death of above named deceased?
No

27. Number of planes in formation prior to crash? unknown

28. State precise time and date of plane crash unknown
(Night) (Day)

29. Were parachutists seen? unknown How many? unknown Escaped? unknown
Prisoners? unknown

SECTION C – ARMORED CORPS DECEASED
(To be completed only if deceased is believed to have been a member of the Armored Force)

30. Were remains found in wreckage of a tank?
a. Give specific position in tank from which deceased was removed
Radio man, driver, assistant driver or . . . front, side or back
b. Near wreckage?

31. Location of destroyed tank must be investigated. Give complete results of investigation.
(If removed, state when and by whom)
a. Type of tank
b. Markings and / or name of tank
c. Numbers on motors, machine guns, ammunition, instruments etc.

32. What was the type of enemy action that resulted in the tank's disablement?

33. Did tank explode? Burn?

34. Number of tanks in immediate vicinity at time of disablement

35. Does specific time and date of disablement correspond with date of death of above named deceased?

36. Precise time and date of destruction of tank
(Night) (Day)

37. Did any of the crew members escape? Prisoners?

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Letters File, Charles Hewes

Report of Investigation Area Search, May 22, 1946

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7132

Declassified in accordance with D.O. 13526

SECTION D – OTHER BRANCH (To be filled out if B & C are not applicable)

38. Did death occur from any other means? (I. E., truck, jeep, mines, drowning, or small arms fire)

.....

If so, give complete and thorough results of the interrogation.

a. Are all certificates and statements of people who possessed knowledge of the case attached?

.....

39. State the specific clues and evidence that were obtained in securing the name and facts regarding the above listed deceased

.....

.....

SECTION E – GENERAL (To be completed by investigation in all cases)

40. Were personal effects recovered by the investigating team? No

If not, state reason None in possession of civilians

a. Were identification tags found at the time of death? unknown

Where? unknown By whom? unknown

Present disposition unknown

If deceased is not identified, personal effects will not be forwarded to PE Depot, but will remain with this form until final identification is made, or investigation is abandoned.

b. Were personal effects found at the time of death? unknown

Where? unknown By whom? unknown

Present disposition? unknown

c. Was deceased identified by living members of the crew at the time of death? unknown

.....

d. Did Cemetery Register or cross indicate the immunization shot? No

41. Was deceased given first aid? Yes If so where? Reserve Lazarett
Gefaengnis

By whom? Dr. Krumbein Are statements from the medical people attached?

.....

42. Was deceased evacuated to a German civilian hospital? Yes

Where? Lingen, Germany Names of people concerned? Dr. Krumbein

.....

- 5 -

Letters File, Charles Hewes

Report of Investigation Area Search, May 22, 1946

United States Department of the Army

Note: the family would not have received a copy of this document.

Declassified in accordance with D.O. 13526

43. Is it possible on surface investigation to obtain from civilian sources a physical description of the deceased? unknown

44. Is it possible on surface investigation to obtain from civilian sources the condition of the remains? unknown
(Burnt? Decapitated? etc)

45. Do facts surrounding death show any evidence that it might be an atrocity case? No

a. If so, give basis for positive assumption

b. If so, has higher headquarters been notified?

46. Was case previously investigated? No By whom?

When?

47. Give full names, addresses, and information obtained from each person interviewed?

..... see attached statements

48. Are all positive statements regarding identification and particulars surrounding death attached?

..... Yes

49. Has any information been given concerning isolated burials in the area outside the immediate vicinity?

..... No

50. Was investigation preceded by advanced publicity? Yes

(If special investigation, give case number)

51. Give Brief Narrative This man crashed his plane or parachuted out in an unknown location. He broke his back and died in Reserve Lazarett Lingen, Germany.
(Use attached sheets, if necessary)

Unpublished
Signature of Interpreter

Rank ASN

Organization

C.A. Hedstrom Jr.
Signature of Investigator
C.A. Hedstrom JR.
2d Lt. FA.

Rank ASN

6889th QM GR Co (Prov)
Organization

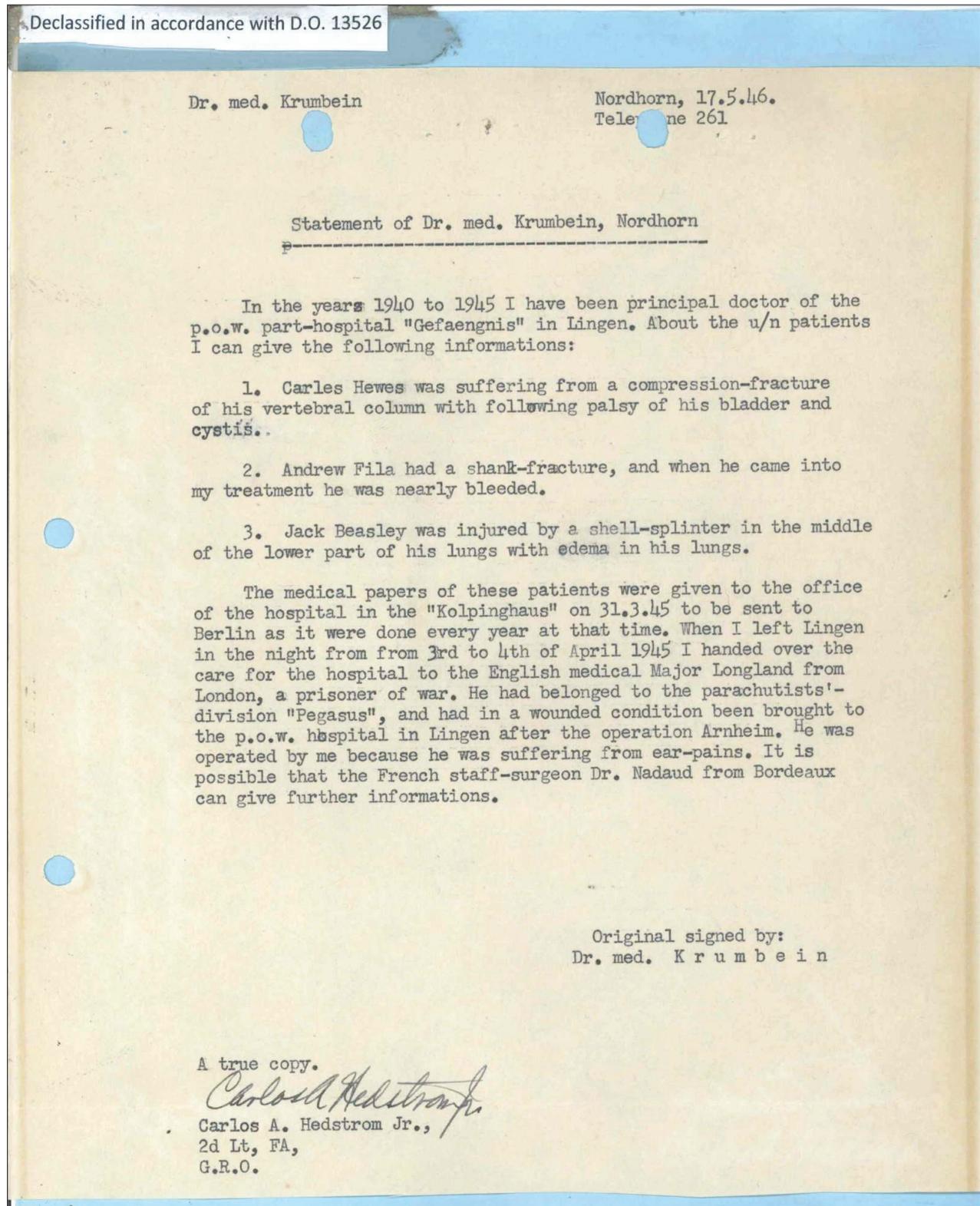
- 6 -

Letters File, Charles Hewes

Statement of Dr. Krumbein, May 17, 1946

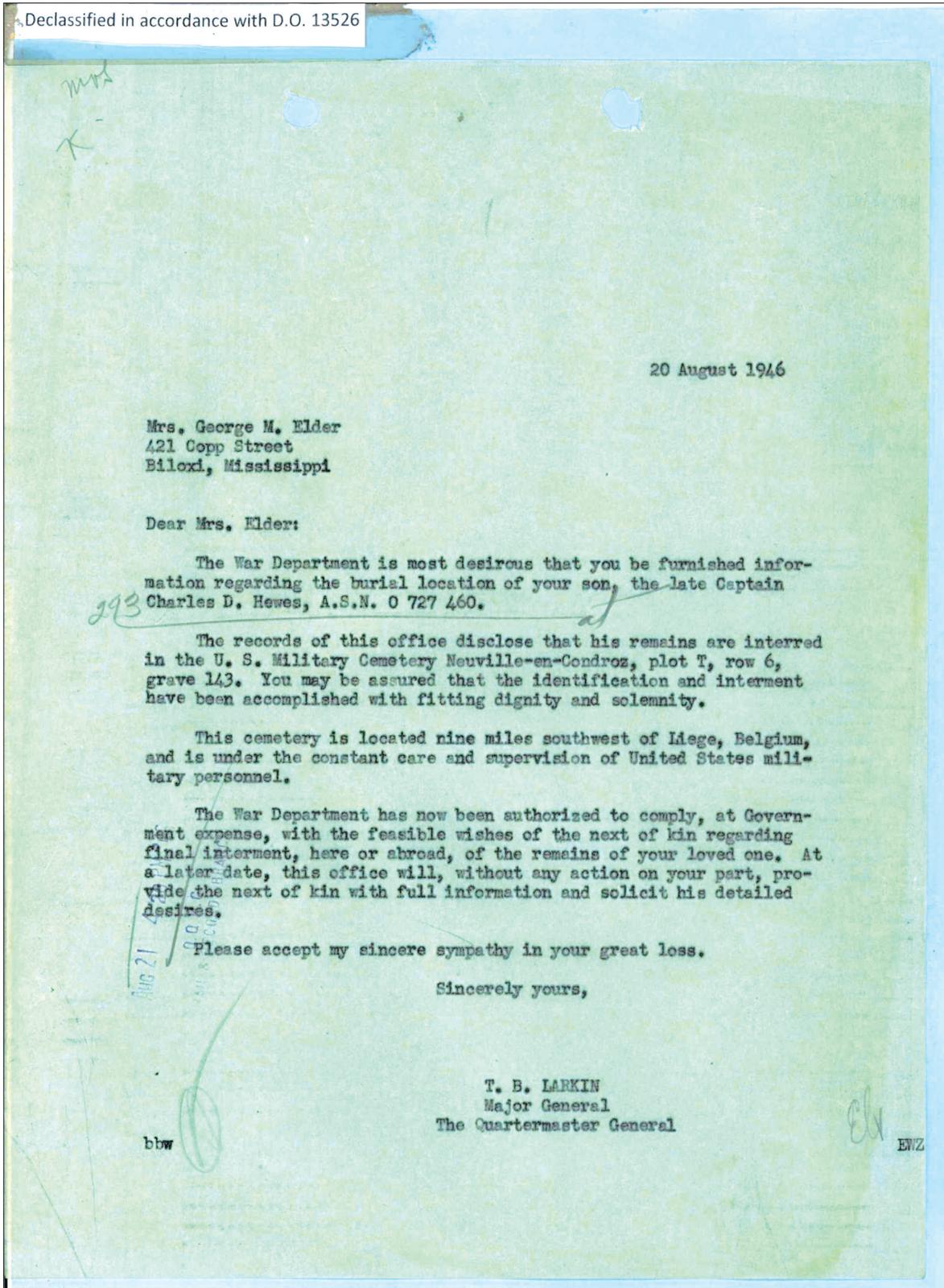
United States Department of the Army

Note: the family would not have received a copy of this document.



Letters File, Charles Hewes

Letter from Major General T. B. Larkin to Mrs. George N. (Mabel) Elder, August 20, 1946
United States Department of the Army



Letters File, James Vrtatko

Letter from Olga Vrtatko to the Adjutant General's Office, U.S. Army, January 8, 1946
United States Department of the Army

29 E. 29th St.
New York 16, New York

Jan. 8, 1946

Adjutant General's Office
War Department
Washington, D. C.

PFC JAMES H VRTATKO (36396086)
326 Airborne Medical Co.
APO 472, c/o P.M.
New York, N. Y.

Sir:

According to information received from the War Department, my brother, James, died in Nettersheim, Germany, Jan. 15, 1945, from bronchial pneumonia, while a prisoner of war. He was missing in action as of Dec. 19, 1944, and it was last september that we received word relative to his death.

If there is any other information availble it would be appreciated. As, for instance, if it is known where he was during the period from Dec. 19, 1944, to date of his death. Did he die in a German prison camp or elsewhere and apparently what was he supposed to be doing in this small village where he died? Was there a German prison camp in this town? Is it known if there was some other complication before pneumonia set in? If this information is not available, could not a further investigation be made?

I would appreciate it very much if I could procure the names and home addresses of soldiers who were in the same company with James and who probably knew him. Some of the boys may even have been withhim and knew of his illness. These boys may have survived and are now discharged. James never gave our family addresses of his Service friends, and in this case it is unfortunate.

My brother went into Service March 20, 1942, at Camp Grant, Illinois. At first he was in Camp Claibourne, La., and later at Fort Bragg, N. C., before going overseas in September 1943. His overseas address was always as given above.

The last communication I received from him was during December 1944, which was written in November 1944 while he was still in Holland, it seems.

Respectfully yours,

Olga Vrtatko

C O P Y

Inclosure Number 2

Letters File, James Vrtatko

Letter from Olga Vrtatko to the Adjutant General's Office, U.S. Army, January 8, 1946
United States Department of the Army

COPY

-2-

VRTATKO, James H.
S36396086

P. S. Please state the place of burial.

If James had any decorations or Army pins before his death that became lost and duplicates are obtainable, they would be appreciated. We did receive the Purple Heart decoration. If more of his personal effects are located, please have them forwarded to the same address as before, Mrs. Barbara Vrtatko, 2702S. Homan Ave., Chicago, 23, Illinois.

(AGO report shows: Barbara)

Letters File, James Vrtatko

Letter from Major General Edward Witchell to Olga Vrtatko, February 27, 1946
United States Department of the Army

L-1730 20

AGFC-G 201 Vrtatko, James H.
2938 Jan 46) 36396086

27 February 1946

Miss Olga Vrtatko
29 East 29th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Miss Vrtatko:

Further reference is made to your letter of 8 January 1946, concerning your brother, Private First Class James H. Vrtatko.

The feelings which prompted your communication are most understandable and I regret that so much sorrow has come to you and your family. The following information regarding your brother's death was submitted to the War Department by Captain Harry A. Tyllao, Medical Corps, in compliance with a request from this office:

"I first saw Pfc James H. Vrtatko in a German prisoner of war collecting point at Netterchain, Germany, on or about 15 January 1945. Pfc Vrtatko was brought to this collecting point as a litter patient from a box car that had moved up from Gerolstein. He called to me by name and I recognized the 101st Division shoulder patch that he wore. He was not wounded but he was seriously ill. I checked his dog tags and looked at his American Red Cross identification card.

"I examined his lungs which revealed a diffuse bronchial pneumonia with heart failure. He expired within a few moments after I first saw him. I believe he was buried at Netterchain."

In the event you wish to communicate with Captain Tyllao, you may address him at 3038 North Elmwood Avenue, Chicago 40, Illinois.

Since the Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D. C., has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the burial and disposition of the personal effects of our military personnel who die overseas, I am

file
1/28/46
3/12/46
5/12/46
5/12/46

Letters File, James Vrtatko

Letter from Major General Edward Witchell to Olga Vrtatko, February 27, 1946
United States Department of the Army

AGPC-O 201 Vrtatko, James H.
(8 Jan 46) 36396056

forwarding a copy of your letter to that official for appropriate attention and further reply to you.

Your inquiry concerning any decorations which Private Vrtatko may have been entitled is presently receiving consideration in this office and will be the subject of a later communication.

There is very little I can say to assuage your sorrow, but I trust that the knowledge of your brother's heroic devotion to duty may sustain and comfort you in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
The Adjutant General of the Army

Letters File, James Vrtatko

Report of Investigation Area Searching, April 6, 1946

United States Department of the Army

Note: the family would not have received a copy of this document.

TGRS / TSFET
Form. No. 10
27-8-45

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION AREA SEARCHING

To be completely filled out and attached to each copy of GR Form I,
„Report of Burial“ when disinterment is accomplished.

- Was investigation preceded by Advance Publicity Yes
(if Special Investigation, so indicate)
- VRTATKO, JAMES H. P.F.C. 36396086 326 ABNE MED. CO.
(Full name of deceased) (Rank) (ASN) (Organization)
- State: Means of identification, i. e. identification, tags attached to marker, inscription on grave marker, cemetery records, townhall records, etc. and Source of Information, i. e. identification tags, identification cards, identification bracelet, leather name plate on flying jacket, clothing marks etc. One I.D. tag found on deceased

Rank and unit taken from W.D. Casualty List

- Give exact location of isolated grave, furnishing coordinates and letter prefix, map sheet, scale and series used; also name of nearest town: Nettersheim, Ger. (WF-2111)
Map Ref. Ger. 1/250,000 Koln K-51

NOTE: ATTACH OVERLAY SHOWING EXACT LOCATION OF ISOLATED GRAVE TYING LOCATION IN WITH PERMANENT LANDMARKS.

- Full name of cemetery (include plot, row and grave if organized cemetery)
Nettersheim Cemetery Plot 1, Row 2, Grave 5, (See sketch)
- Approximate or established date of death (state which and give basis for date selected)
22 Jan 1945 established date given by Burgermeister
Peter Schmal
- Approximate or established date of burial (give basis for date established)
26 Jan 1945 established date given by Burgermeister
- Manner in which grave was marked, show information contained on the marker
Wooden Cross, Private Vrtatko, James H. U.S.A.
Geb. 1/8/08 Gest. 22/1/45
- List personal effects found in possession of civilian and custodial personnel now retaining, furnishing name and address of individuals concerned
(None)
- Furnish information obtained concerning place, and particulars surrounding death and burial; give the names and addresses of all persons furnishing such information (contact local Mayor, priest, police, hospitals, cemetery sextons or caretakers, those responsible for burial and others possessing important information) The deceased died enroute from Gerolstein to an unknown destination. He died in Nettersheim Ger. and was buried in the Nettersheim Cemetery.

Informant : Peter Schmal House 38
Nettersheim, Germany.

- Give name and address of person who can guide disintering team to burial location
Peter Schmal, House 38, Burgermeister of Nettersheim, Ger.

Letters File, James Vrtatko

Report of Investigation Area Searching, April 6, 1946

United States Department of the Army

Note: the family would not have received a copy of this document.

12. Is this atrocity case: NO Is there evidence that it may be: NO
 If answer is yes, has responsible War Crimes representative been notified _____

13. Names and addresses of persons committing the atrocity or the military unit of which these persons were members
(Not applicable)

14. If unidentified and a crew member of a plane or vehicle, indicate names of any other known crew members and state whether buried at this location or a survivor
(Not applicable)

15. If unidentified, supply any of the following information determinable

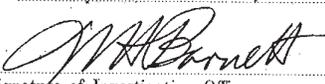
a. Crew position in plane or vehicle _____

b. Plane or vehicle serial number _____ Type _____

c. Installed weapons

Serial Number	Calibre & Mfgr.	Serial Number	Calibre & Mfgr.
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

d. Engine serial number _____ Type _____


 Signature of Investigating Officer
 WILLIAM H. BARNETT
 2nd Lt. O-2018275
 6890 QM GR Co.
 Rank _____ ASN _____

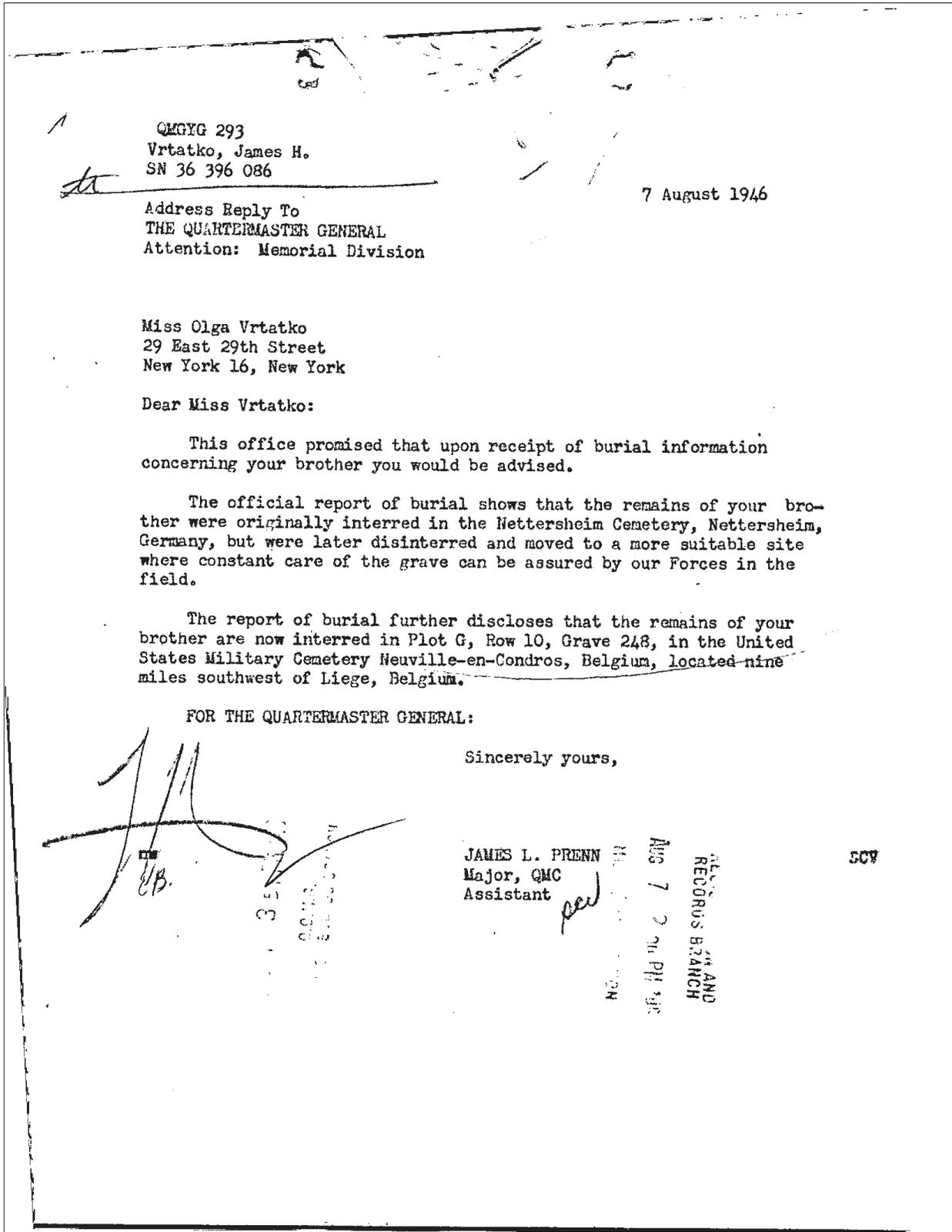
Disinterment approved by (HQ Authorizing Exhumation) 6890 QM GR Co.
~~Disinterment~~ reburial/~~excavation~~ made by 6894th QM GR Det (GA)
 Date of ~~excavation~~/reburial 6 Apr/46
 Place of ~~excavation~~/reburial U. S Military Cemetery, Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium, VK 390187
 Plot G Row 10 Grave 248

NOTE: Additional particulars regarding investigation will be placed on additional sheet.

* Cross out word not applicable.

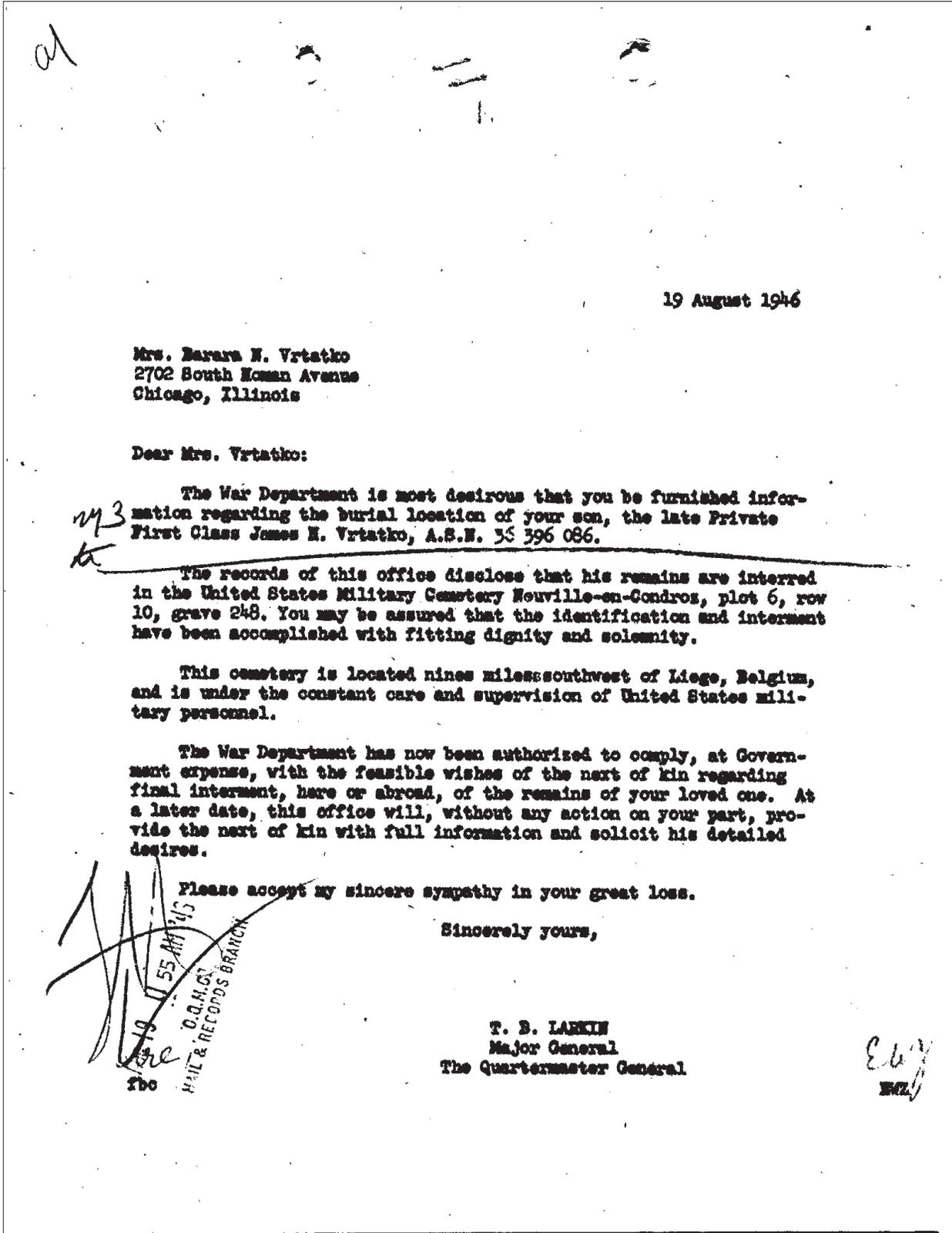
Letters File, James Vrtatko

Letter from Major James L. Prenn to Miss Olga Vrtatko, August 7, 1946
United States Department of the Army



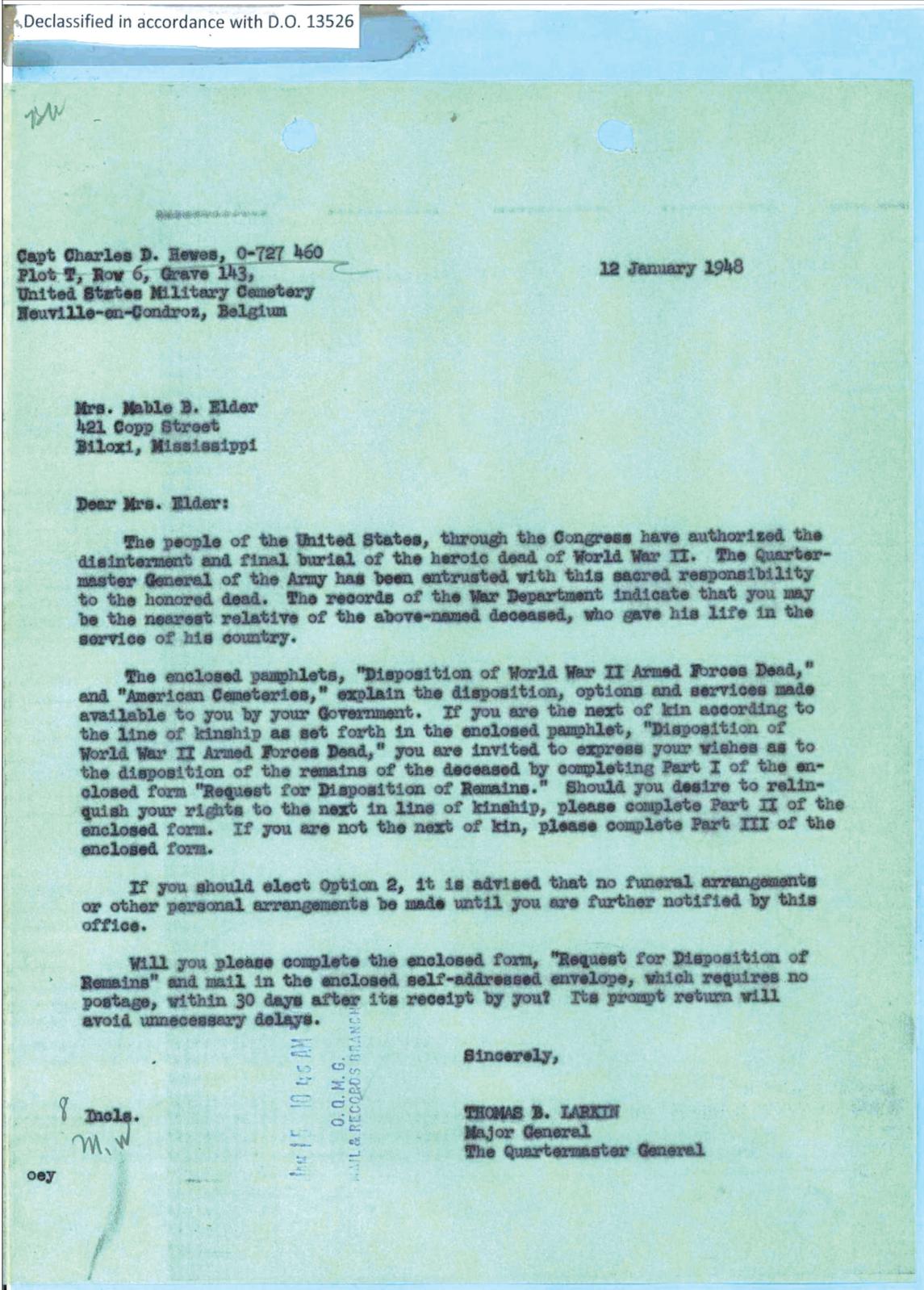
Letters File, James Vrtatko

Letter from Major General T. B. Larkin to Mrs. Barbara N. Vrtatko, August 19, 1946
United States Department of the Army



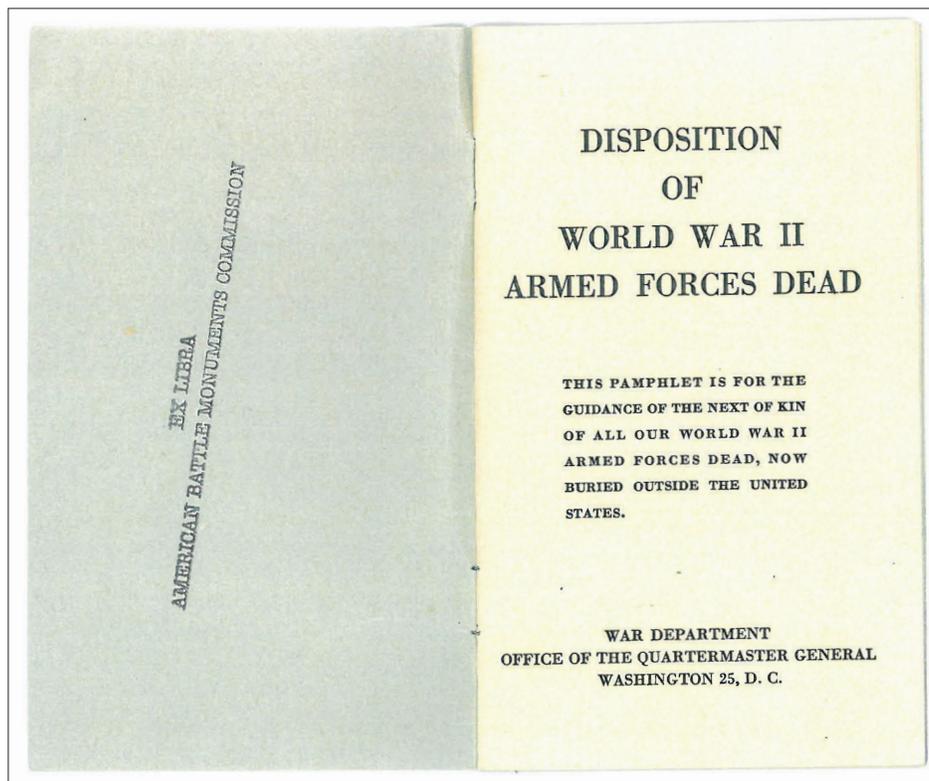
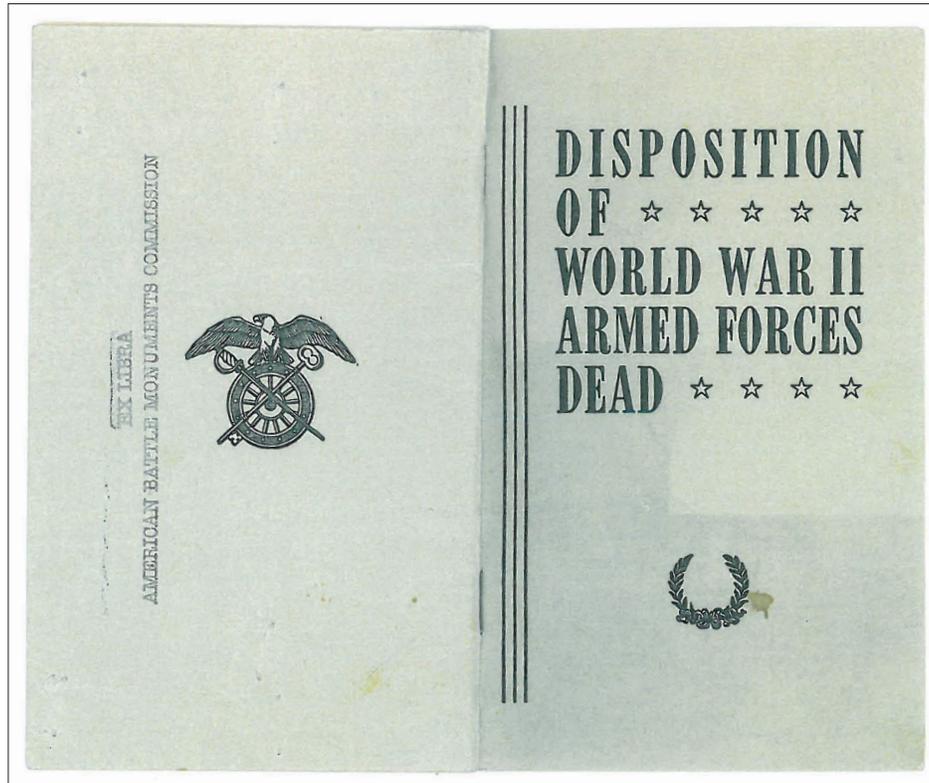
Decision File, Charles Hewes

Letter from Major General Thomas B. Larkin to Mrs. Mabel B. Elder, January 12, 1948
United States Department of the Army



Decision File, Charles Hewes

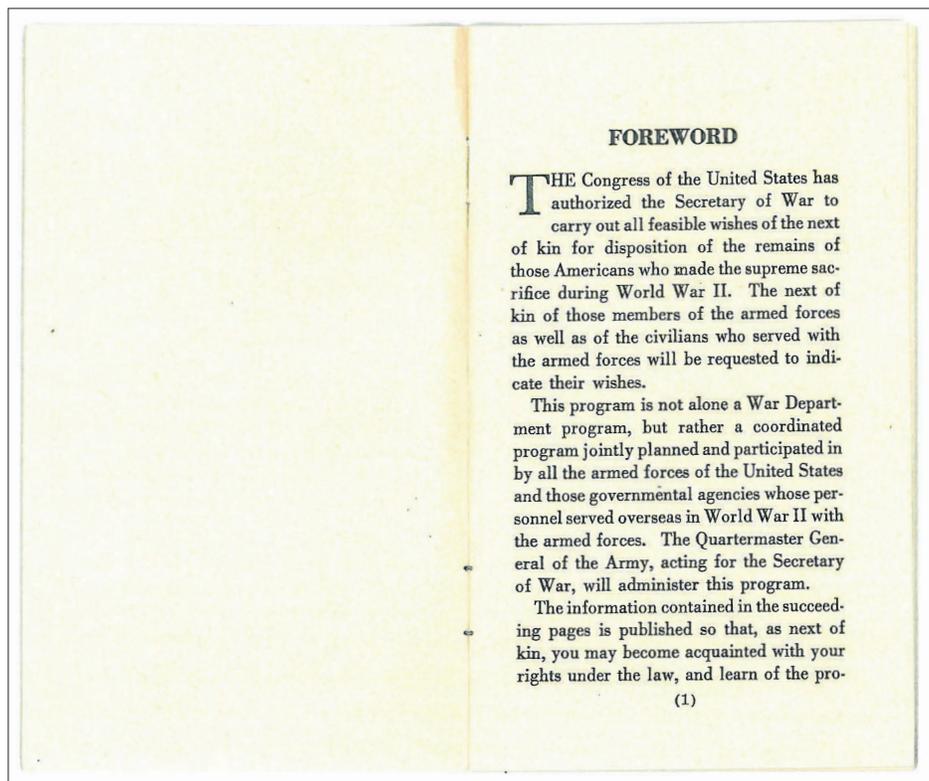
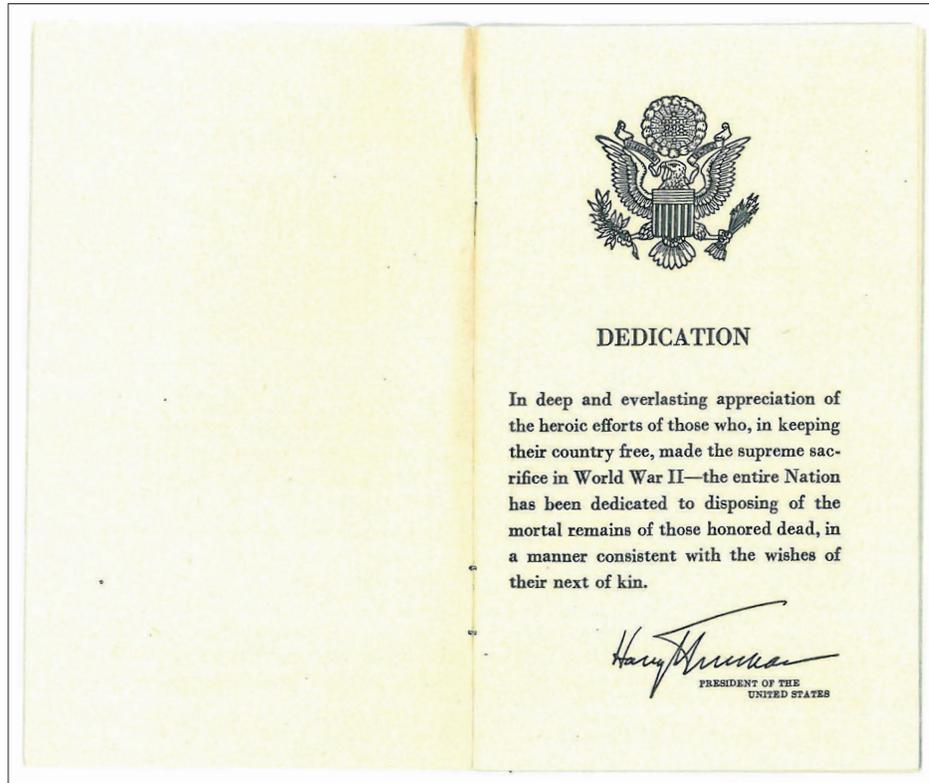
Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946
United States Department of War



Decision File, Charles Hewes

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946

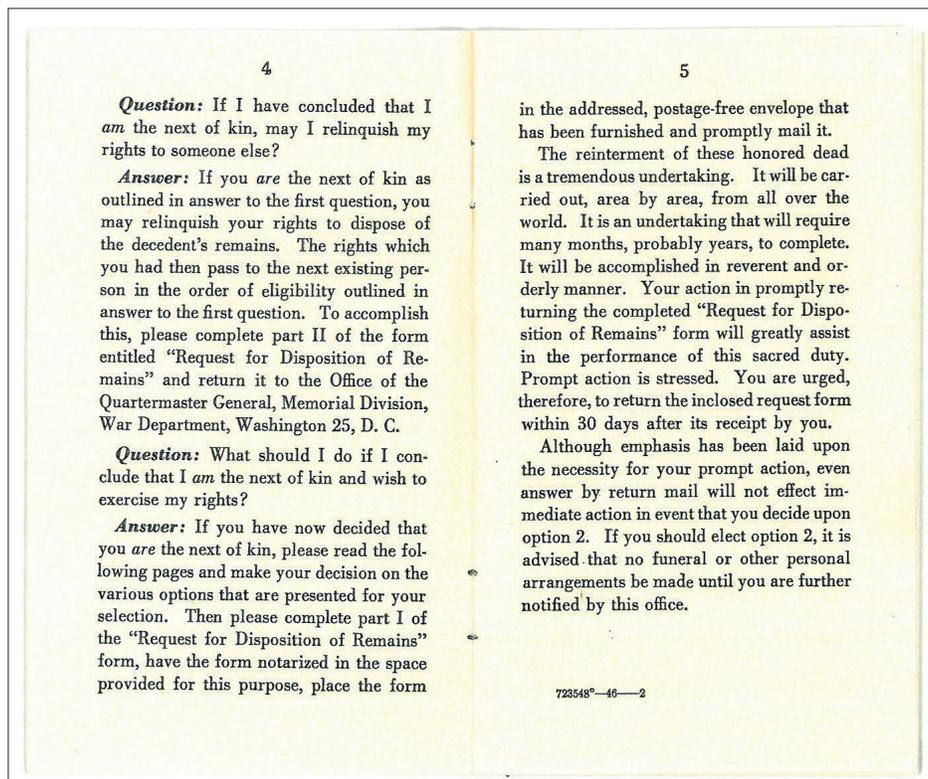
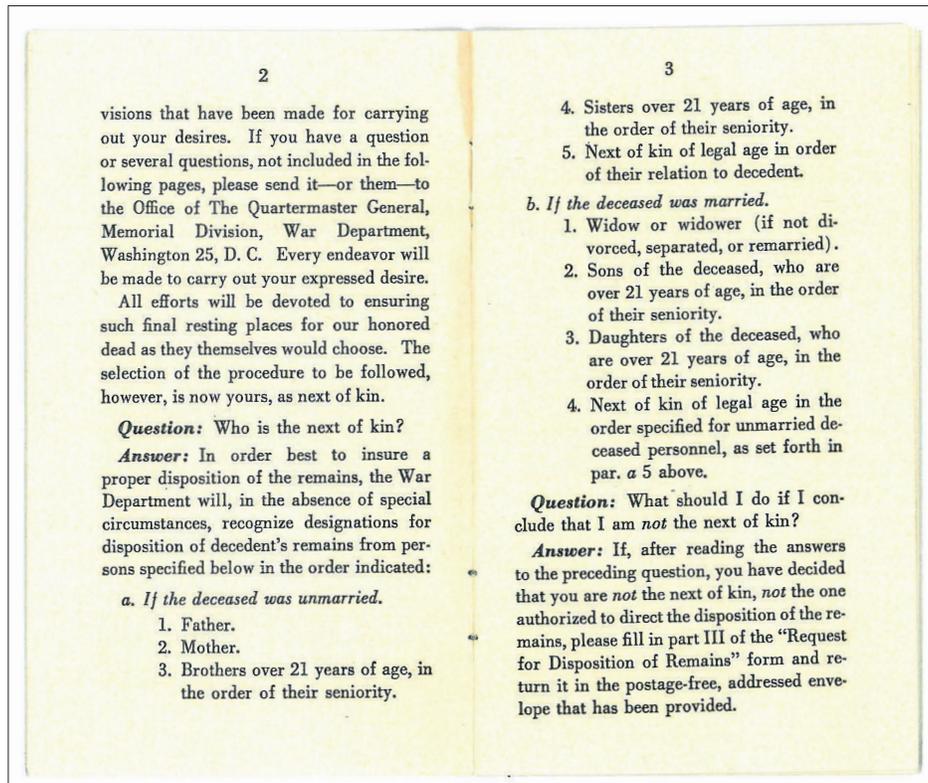
United States Department of War



Decision File, Charles Hewes

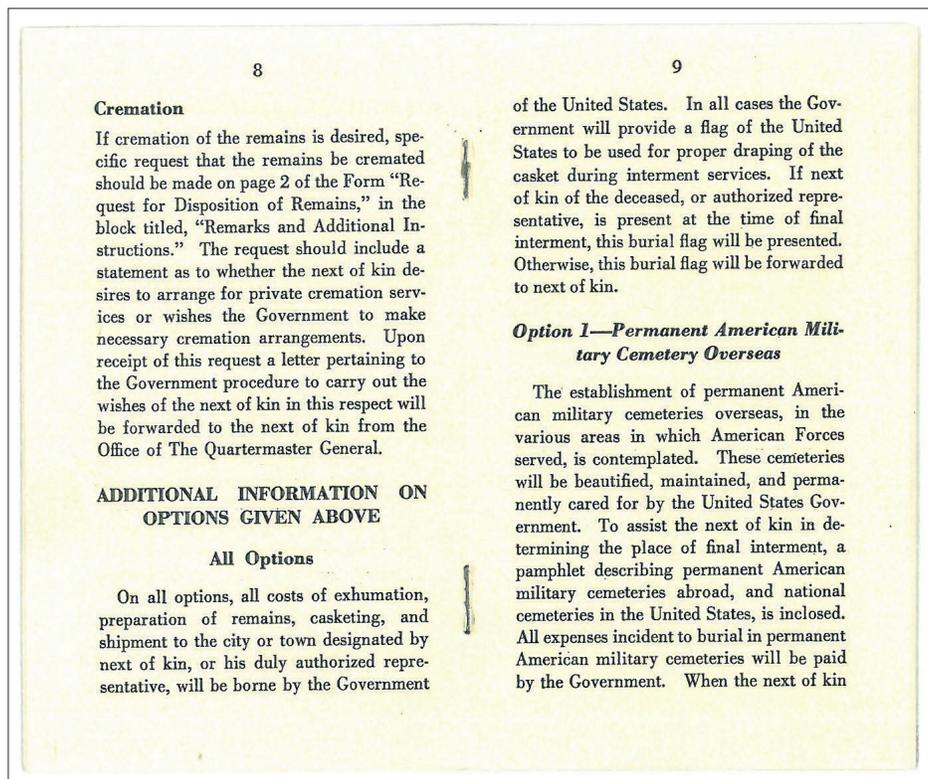
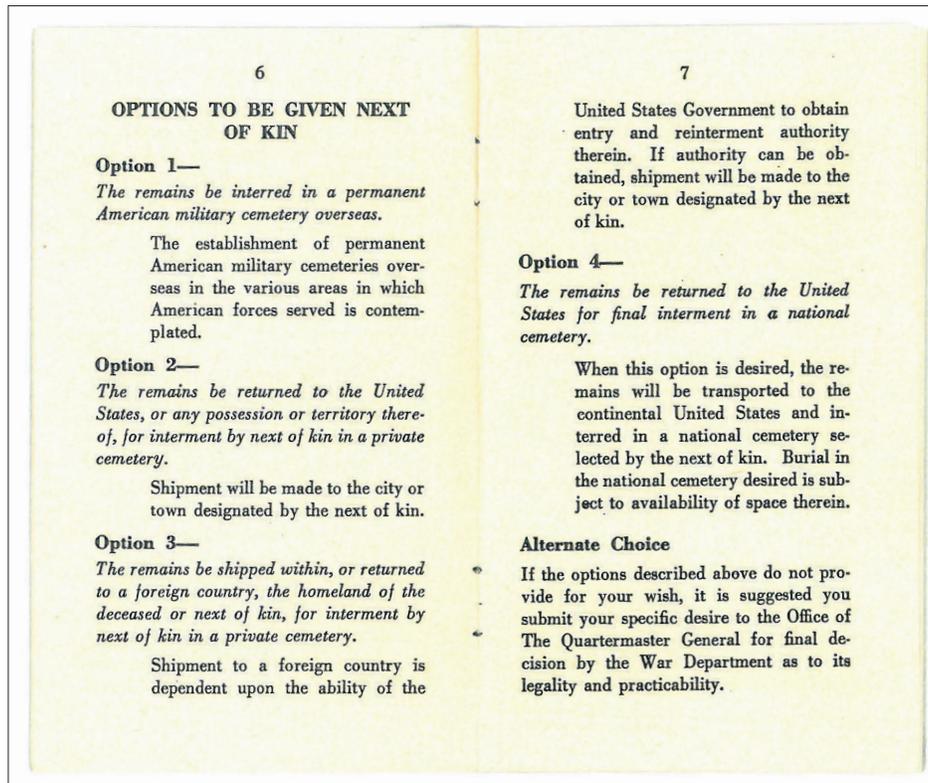
Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946

United States Department of War



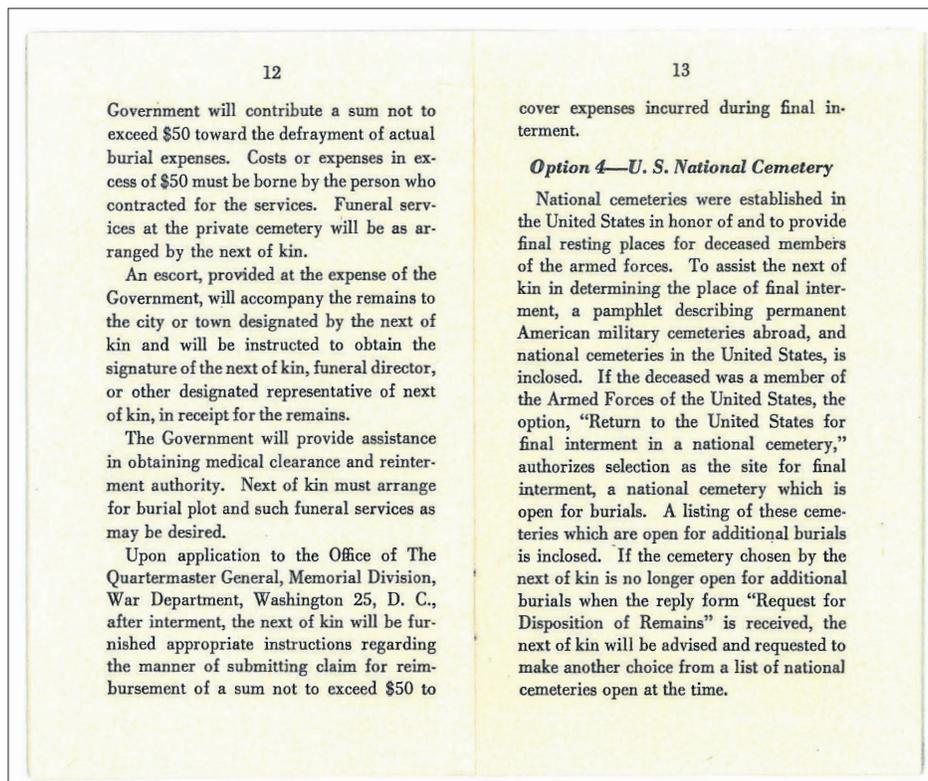
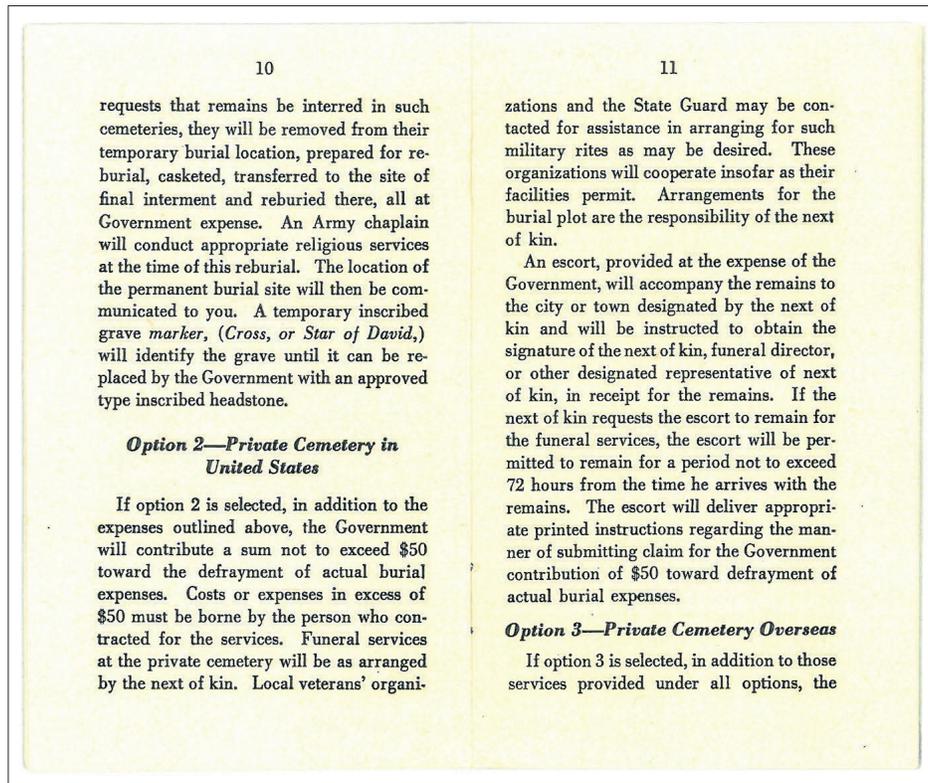
Decision File, Charles Hewes

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946
United States Department of War



Decision File, Charles Hewes

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946
United States Department of War



Decision File, Charles Hewes

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946

United States Department of War

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Remains may be shipped directly to the selected national cemetery for interment and funeral services; or, remains may be shipped to the place designated by you and thence to a national cemetery for interment. In the latter case, the Government will be responsible for transportation cost in an amount not to exceed the travel expense otherwise necessary to move the remains to the national cemetery by a direct route from the Distribution Center.

An escort, provided at the expense of the Government, will accompany the remains to the national cemetery selected, or the city or town designated by the next of kin if it is desired that the remains be shipped to a designated city or town for religious services prior to interment in the selected national cemetery. In the latter case, the escort, if so requested by the next of kin, will be permitted to remain for the services for a period not to exceed 72 hours from the time he arrives with the remains. The escort will be instructed to obtain signature of next of kin, funeral director or other designated representative of the next of kin, in receipt for the remains. Provision for

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services of an attendant to accompany the remains from the place where services were held to the selected national cemetery is an obligation of the next of kin.

When interment in a national cemetery is your choice, there will be no cost to you for the grave site, the opening of the grave or the actual interment and closing of the grave. Also as stated previously, the Government approved type of inscribed headstone will be provided automatically at no cost to you.

Identity of Deceased

Prior to the registering of a grave overseas as containing the remains of a designated (by name) member of the armed forces of the United States, every means possible was employed and every known method was pursued to establish definitely and positively the identity of the deceased. In this respect, no effort was considered to be too great and meticulous attention was given to smallest details. Identity having been thus established, evidence of identity was buried with the re-

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main and indicated on the grave marker. If removal and reburial elsewhere become necessary, all records will again be checked and all evidence of identity again examined. Military personnel especially trained in the procedure supervise and directly control these operations. Also, from the time of exhumation of the remains until their reception by next of kin, they will be under constant protection of military escorts. Thus, when the next of kin is requested to indicate his desires in the manner of final disposition of the remains of a certain member of the Armed Forces of the United States, he and all others may rest assured that the identity of the remains has been definitely established.

INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE DECEASED

When information on any of the following listed subjects, with respect to the personnel indicated is desired, the inquiry should be addressed to the office that is listed below:

17

Army, State Department, Merchant Marine, U. S. Employment Service, Red Cross, and War Correspondent Personnel:

Death (circumstances surrounding death) and missing personnel—

The Adjutant General,
Casualty Branch,
Munitions Building,
Washington 25, D. C.

Cemeterial and Burial Information—

Office of The Quartermaster General,
Memorial Division, War Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Personal Effects—

Army Effects Bureau,
Kansas City Quartermaster Depot,
601 Hardesty Avenue,
Kansas City 1, Mo.

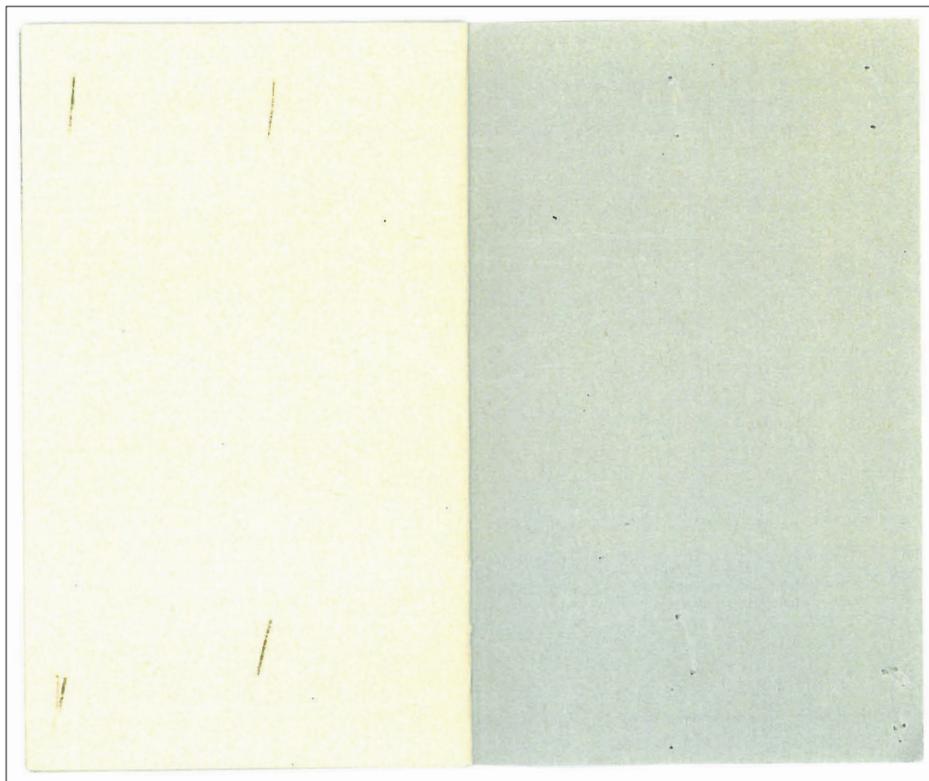
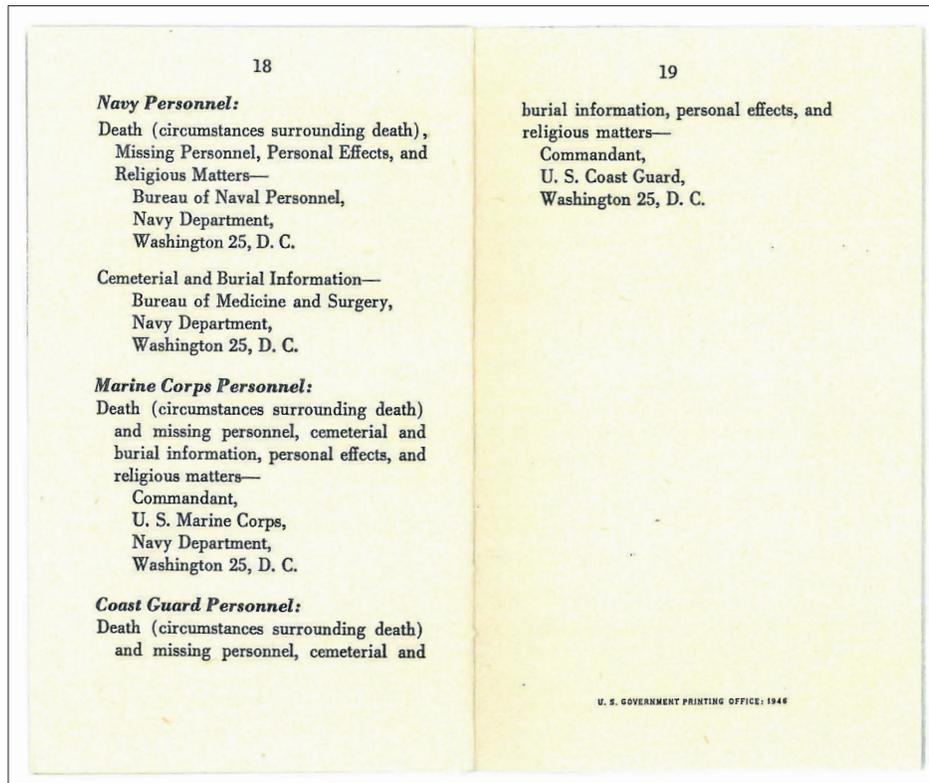
Religious Matters—

War Department,
Office, Chief of Chaplains,
Washington 25, D. C.

Decision File, Charles Hewes

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946

United States Department of War



Decision File, James Vrtatko

Letter from Major General Thomas B. Larkin to Mrs. Barbara N. Vrtatko, January 15, 1948
United States Department of the Army

g

Pfc James E. Vrtatko, 36 396 086
Plot G, Row 10, Grave 248,
United States Military Cemetery
Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium

15 January 1948

Mrs. Barbara N. Vrtatko
2702 South Homan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Vrtatko:

The people of the United States, through the Congress have authorized the disinterment and final burial of the heroic dead of World War II. The Quartermaster General of the Army has been entrusted with this sacred responsibility to the honored dead. The records of the War Department indicate that you may be the nearest relative of the above-named deceased, who gave his life in the service of his country.

The enclosed pamphlets, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," and "American Cemeteries," explain the disposition, options and services made available to you by your Government. If you are the next of kin according to the line of kinship as set forth in the enclosed pamphlet, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," you are invited to express your wishes as to the disposition of the remains of the deceased by completing Part I of the enclosed form "Request for Disposition of Remains." Should you desire to relinquish your rights to the next in line of kinship, please complete Part II of the enclosed form. If you are not the next of kin, please complete Part III of the enclosed form.

If you should elect Option 2, it is advised that no funeral arrangements or other personal arrangements be made until you are further notified by this office.

Will you please complete the enclosed form, "Request for Disposition of Remains" and mail in the enclosed self-addressed envelope, which requires no postage, within 30 days after its receipt by you? Its prompt return will avoid unnecessary delays.

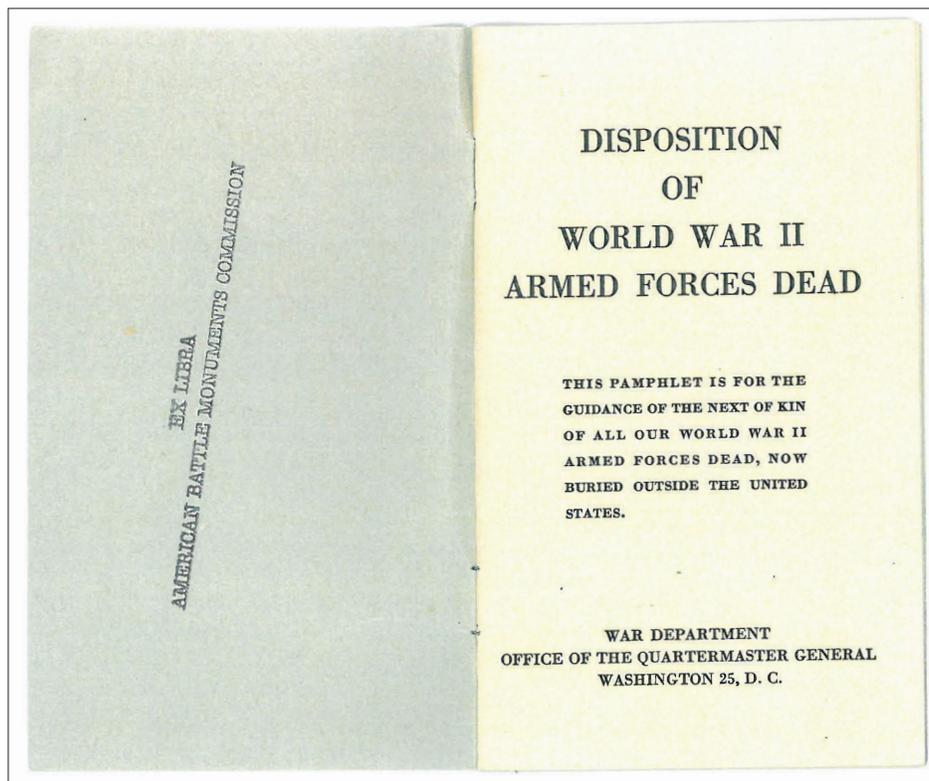
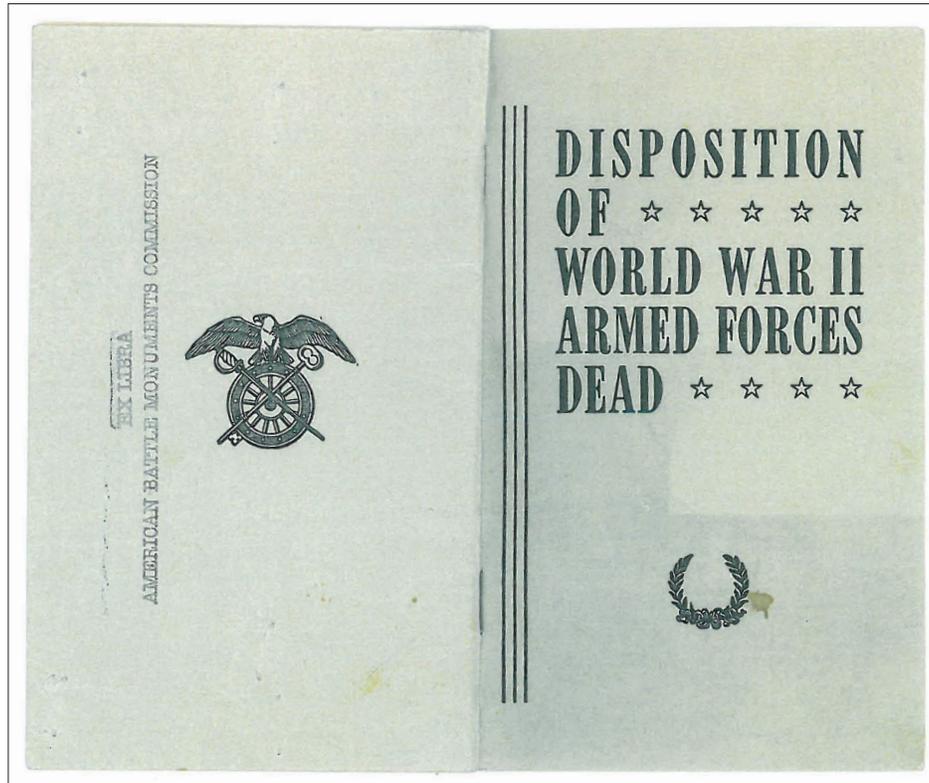
Sincerely,

THOMAS B. LARKIN
Major General
The Quartermaster General

8
Incls.
M.A.K.
Jan 15 2 04 PM
MAIL & RECORDS BRANCH

Decision File, James Vrtatko

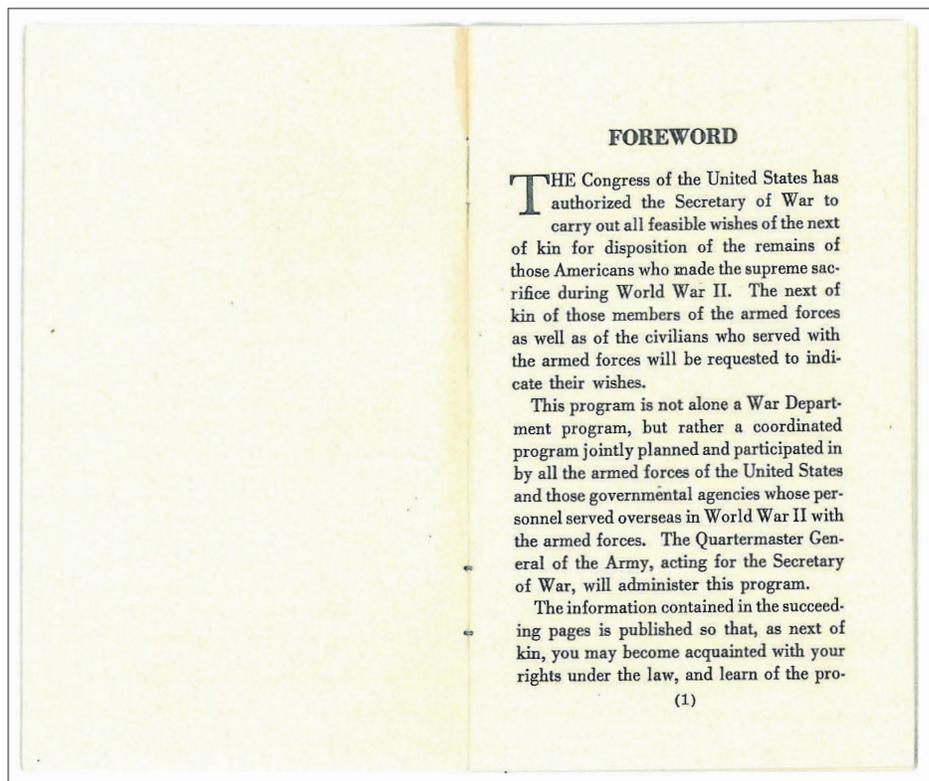
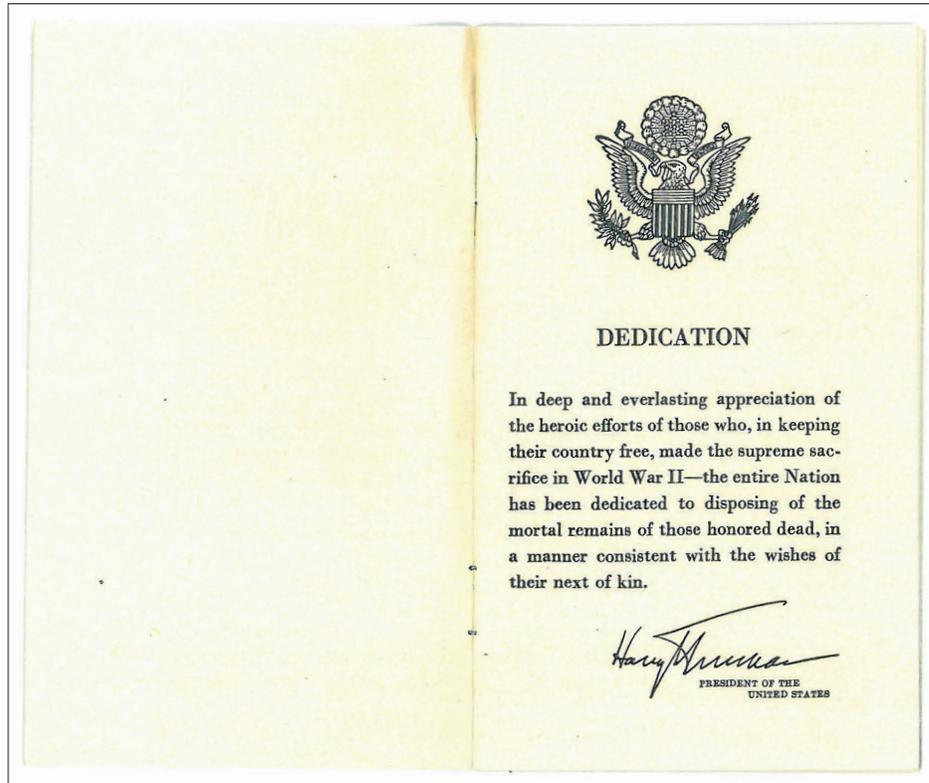
Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946
United States Department of War



Decision File, James Vrtatko

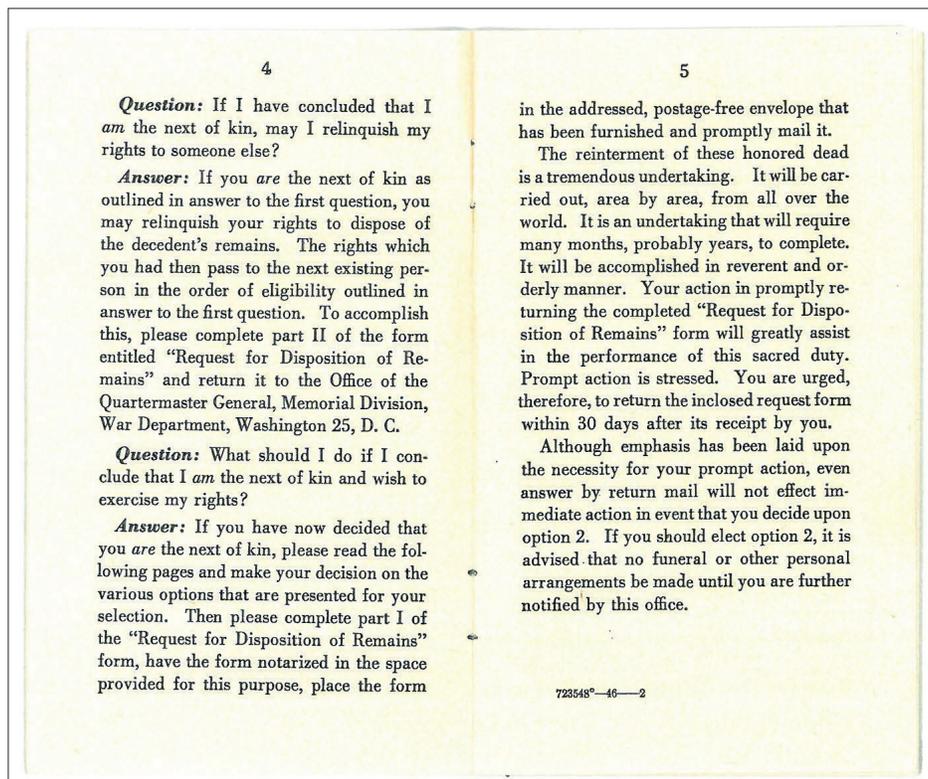
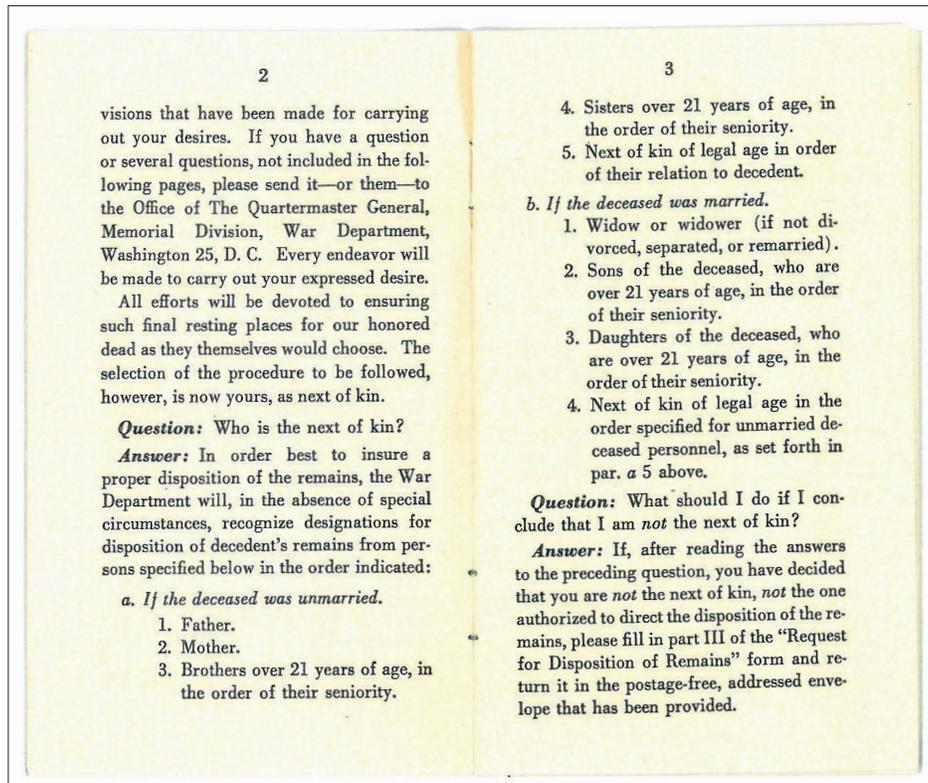
Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946

United States Department of War



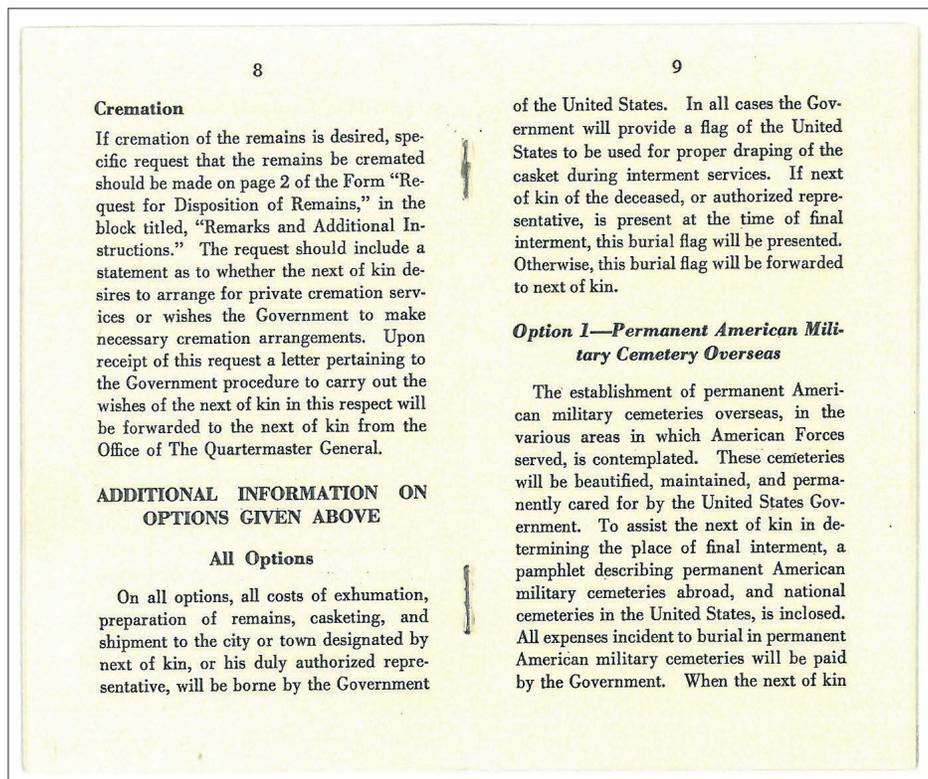
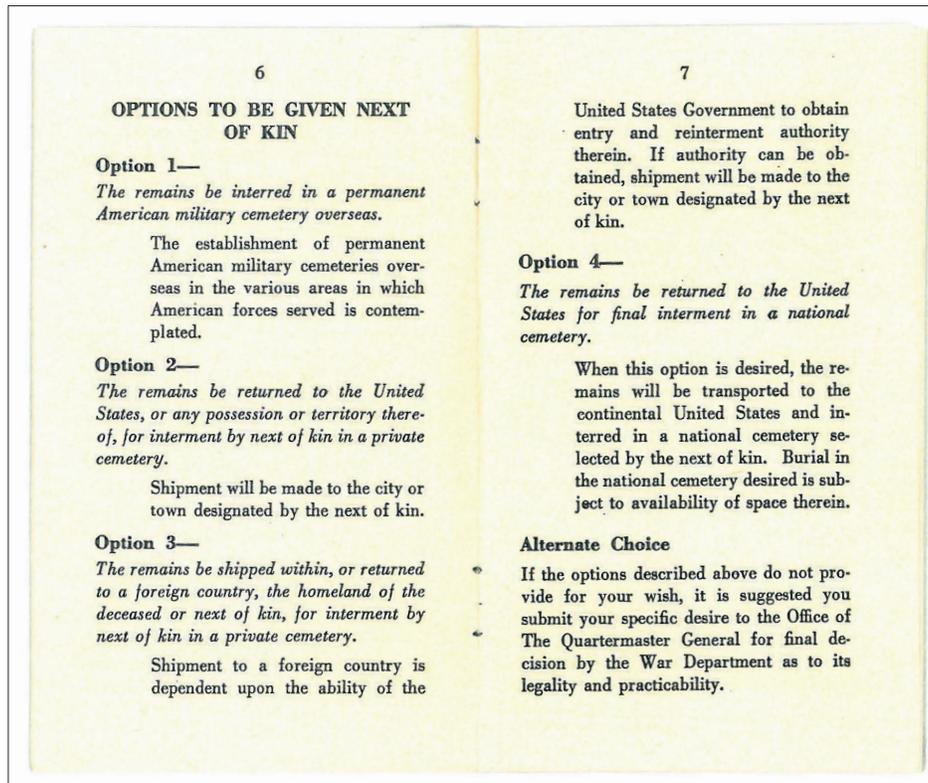
Decision File, James Vrtatko

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946
United States Department of War



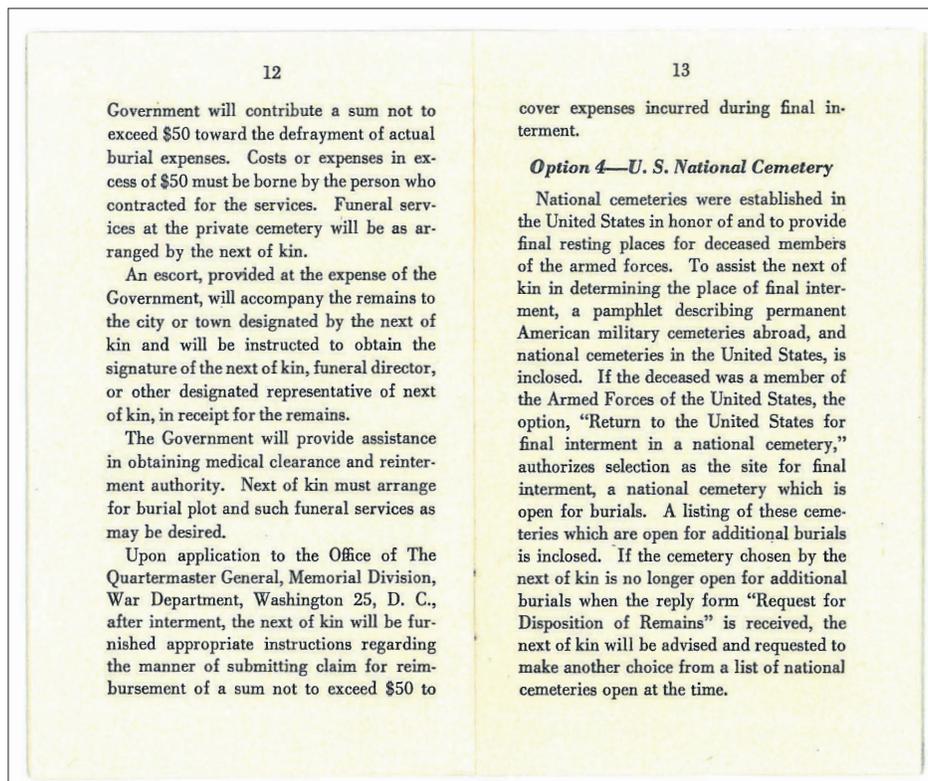
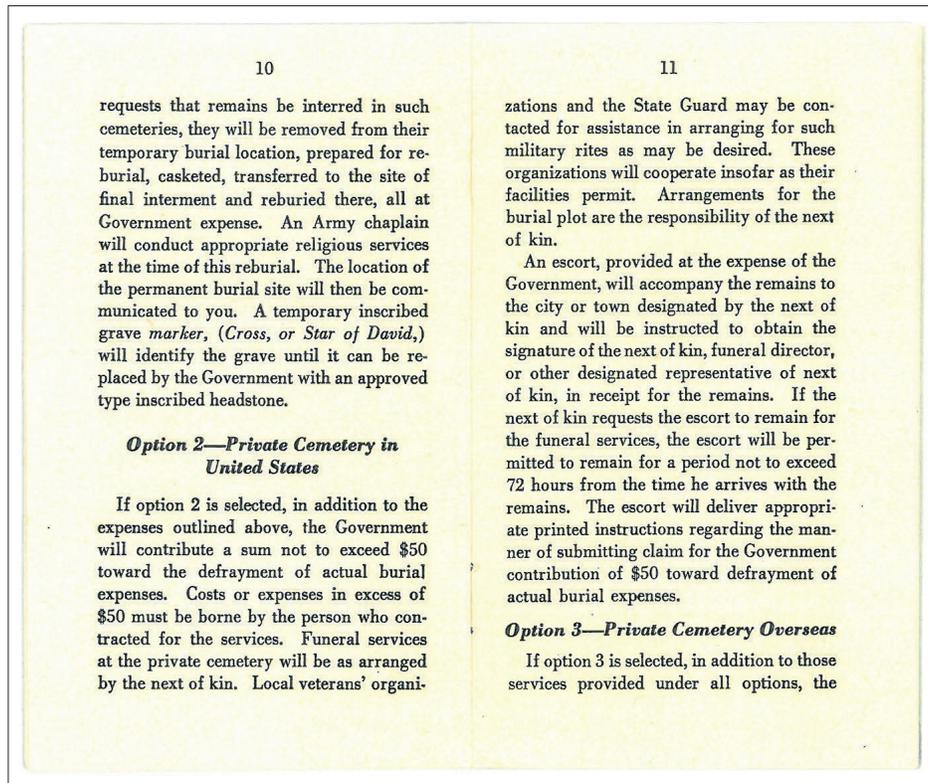
Decision File, James Vrtatko

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946
United States Department of War



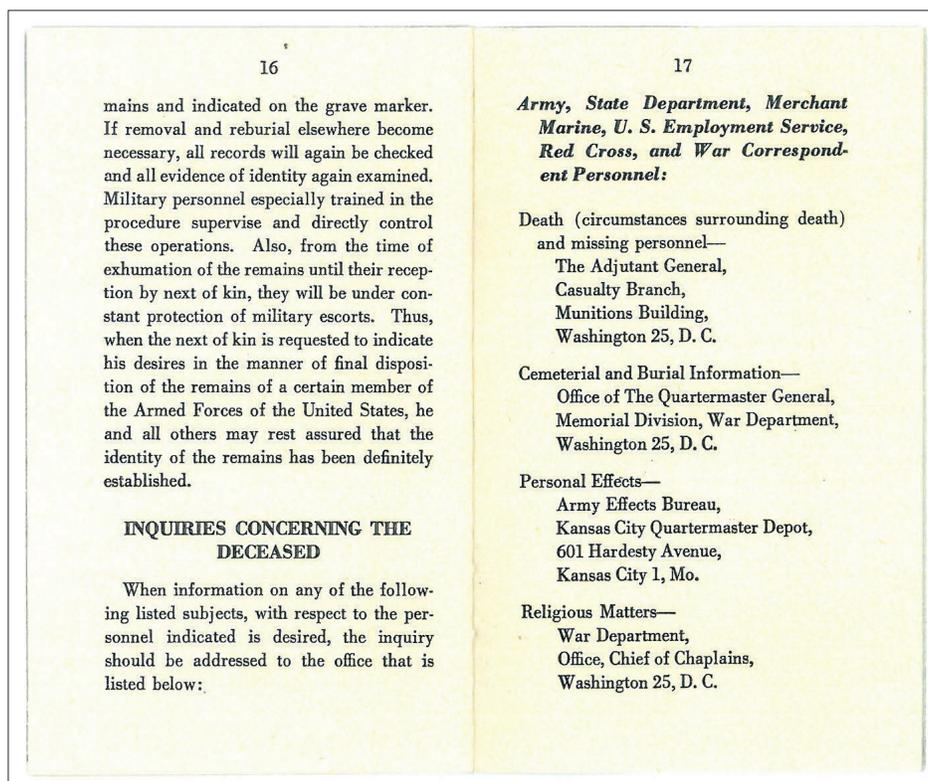
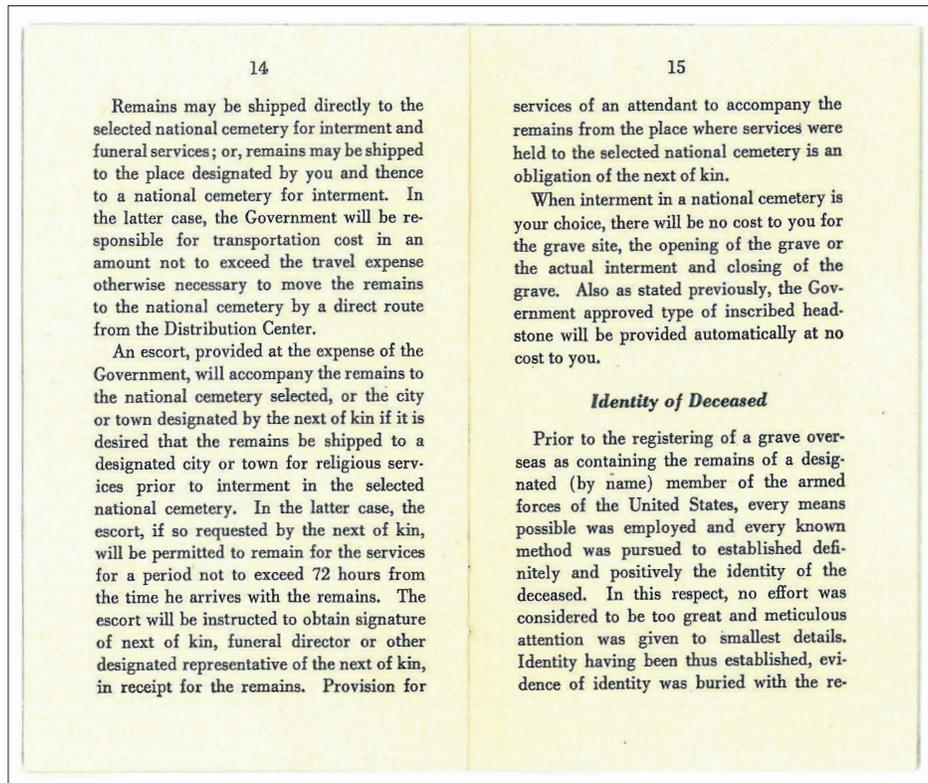
Decision File, James Vrtatko

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946
United States Department of War



Decision File, James Vrtatko

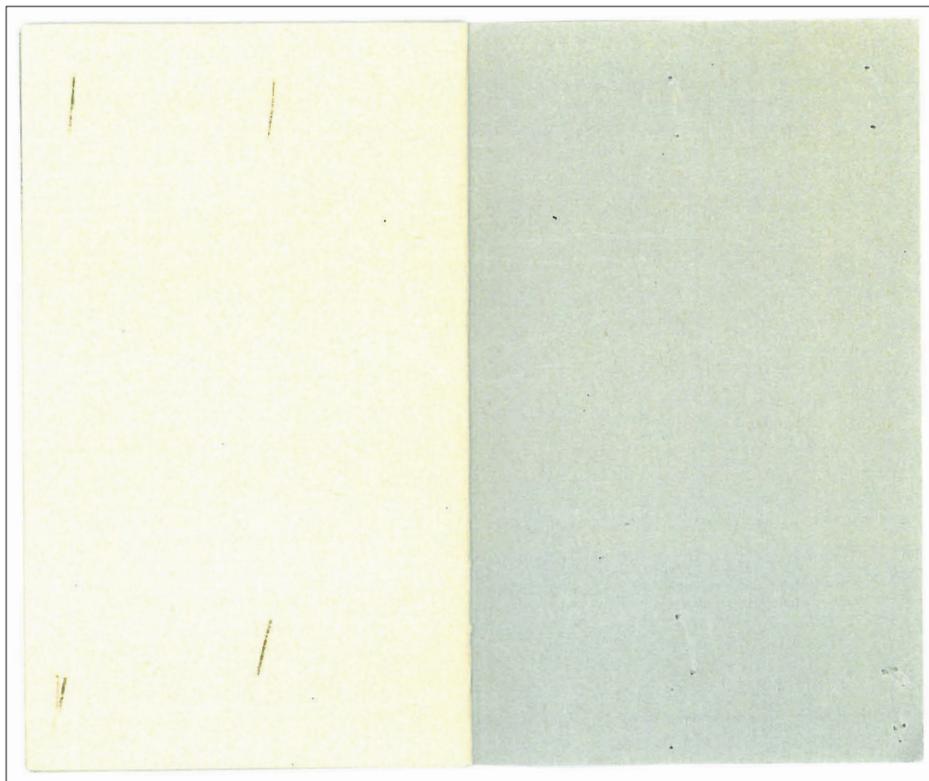
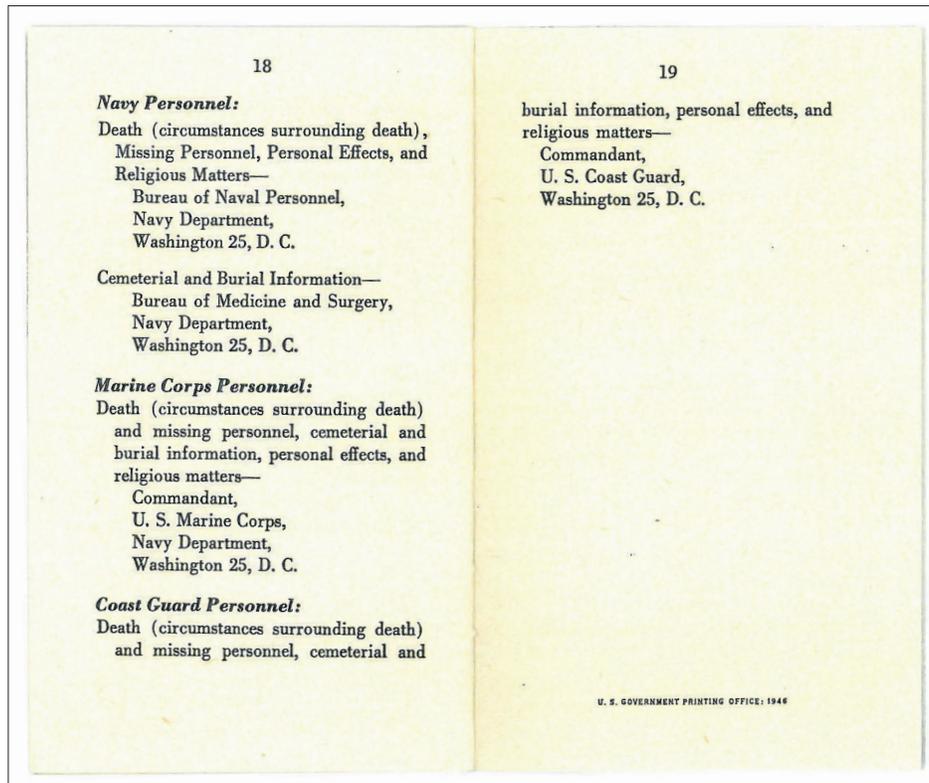
Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946
United States Department of War



Decision File, James Vrtatko

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946

United States Department of War



Request for Disposition of Remains, Charles Hewes

United States Department of the Army

Declassified in accordance with D.O. 13526

BUDGET BUREAU No. 49-R277.

REQUEST FOR DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

L-2-12

GRADE OF DECEASED, NAME, ARMY SERIAL NUMBER AND REPORTED PLACE OF BURIAL DATE:

Capt Charles D. Hewes, O-727 460
 Plot T, Row 6, Grave 143,
 United States Military Cemetery
 Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium 12 January 1948

A		C	
B		D	

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

NOTE.—The next of kin should familiarize himself with the contents of the pamphlet, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," before filling out this form. When the proper part of this form is filled out and properly signed by the next of kin, it should be returned to the OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, MEMORIAL DIVISION, WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON 25, D. C., in the self-addressed postage-free envelope provided for this purpose.
 If you are the next of kin or authorized representative of next of kin and desire to direct the disposition of the remains, please fill in PART I of this form.

PART I

I, Mrs. Mabel B. Elder. (Please indicate relationship to the deceased by placing an "X" in the proper box.)
(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE NAME OF NEXT OF KIN)

WIDOW WIDOWER SON OVER 21 YEARS OLD DAUGHTER OVER 21 YEARS OLD
 FATHER MOTHER BROTHER OVER 21 YEARS OLD SISTER OVER 21 YEARS OLD
 RELATIONSHIP OTHER THAN ABOVE (Specify) _____

HAVING FAMILIARIZED MYSELF WITH THE OPTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO ME WITH RESPECT TO THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF THE DECEASED DESIGNATED ABOVE, NOW DO DECLARE THAT IT IS MY DESIRE THAT THE REMAINS: (Please place an "X" in the box opposite the option you have selected.)

1. BE INTERRED IN A PERMANENT AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY OVERSEAS. Neuville-en-Condroz-Bel.

2. BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES OR ANY POSSESSION OR TERRITORY THEREOF FOR INTERMENT BY NEXT OF KIN IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY

(NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY)

3. BE RETURNED TO _____ (FOREIGN COUNTRY) THE HOMELAND OF THE DECEASED OR NEXT OF KIN, FOR INTERMENT BY NEXT OF KIN IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY LOCATED AT _____ (LOCATION OF CEMETERY SELECTED)

4. BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FINAL INTERMENT IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY LOCATED AT _____ (LOCATION OF NATIONAL CEMETERY SELECTED)

(Please indicate if your own religious services at a location other than the selected national cemetery are desired by placing an "X" in the proper box)

YES NO

THE NAME OF THE DECEASED, THE SERIAL NUMBER AND GRADE ARE CORRECT EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: (If no corrections are necessary, indicate this fact by inserting the word "NONE" in the space below.)

none

DD Proc 9/1/48 PB

Coded 8-24-48

L.A. Scott

16-50411-1

OQMG FORM 345 MILITARY 14 NOV 1946

PAGE 1

JUN 8 1948

KMP

Request for Disposition of Remains, Charles Hewes

United States Department of the Army

Declassified in accordance with D.O. 13526

PART I (Continued)

If on Page 1 of this form you have selected Option Number 2 or 3, or Option Number 4 with your own funeral ceremonies desired at a location other than the selected national cemetery, complete one of these sections.

I, AS THE NEXT OF KIN, DO FURTHER DECLARE THAT I DESIRE THE REMAINS TO BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING PERSON WHO HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THEM:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY OR PROVINCE
STATE OR TERRITORY OF U. S. A., OR COUNTRY	TELEPHONE No.	
EXPRESS OFFICE (Nearest railroad passenger station)	TELEGRAPH ADDRESS	

OR I, AS THE NEXT OF KIN, DO FURTHER DECLARE THAT I DESIRE THE REMAINS TO BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING FUNERAL DIRECTOR WHO HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THEM:

FULL NAME OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR			
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY OR PROVINCE	STATE OR TERRITORY OF U. S. A., OR COUNTRY
EXPRESS OFFICE (Nearest railroad passenger station)	TELEGRAPH ADDRESS	TELEPHONE No.	

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NEXT IN LINE OF KINSHIP AFTER ME, AS SET FORTH IN THE PAMPHLET, "DISPOSITION OF WORLD WAR II ARMED FORCES DEAD," IS:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY OR PROVINCE	STATE OR TERRITORY OF U. S. A., OR COUNTRY

REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS (For additional space use page 4.)

AS EXPLAINED IN THE PAMPHLET, "DISPOSITION OF WORLD WAR II ARMED FORCES DEAD," I AM THE NEXT OF KIN AND THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO DIRECT THE DISPOSITION OF THE SAID REMAINS.

I, the undersigned, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) that the statements made by me in the foregoing document are full and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Mrs. Mabel B. Elder (SIGNATURE OF NEXT OF KIN) 421 Copp St. (STREET AND NUMBER)
 _____ (NAME PRINTED OR TYPED) Biloxi, Miss. (CITY AND STATE)

Subscribed and duly sworn to before me according to law by the above-named applicant this 3rd day of February, 1948, at city (or town) of Biloxi, county of Harrison, and State (or Territory or District) of _____

*NOTE.—Page 4 is part of the notarial attestation.

(SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER OATHS)

(OFFICIAL TITLE)

Request for Disposition of Remains, James Vrtatko

United States Department of the Army

BUDGET BUREAU No. 49-R277.

REQUEST FOR DISPOSITION OF REMAINS 2/9/48

GRADE OF DECEASED, NAME, ARMY SERIAL NUMBER AND REPORTED PLACE OF BURIAL DATE:

VRTATKO
Pfc James H. Vrtatko, 36 396 086
Plot G, Row 10, Grave 248,
United States Military Cemetery
Neuville-en-Condros, Belgium 15 January 1948

A		C	
B		D	

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

NOTE.—The next of kin should familiarize himself with the contents of the pamphlet, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," before filling out this form. When the proper part of this form is filled out and properly signed by the next of kin, it should be returned to the OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, MEMORIAL DIVISION, WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON 25, D. C., in the self-addressed postage-free envelope provided for this purpose.
If you are the next of kin or authorized representative of next of kin and desire to direct the disposition of the remains, please fill in PART I of this form.

PART I

I, **BARBARA VRTATKO** (Please indicate relationship to the deceased by placing an "X" in the proper box.)
(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE NAME OF NEXT OF KIN)

WIDOW WIDOWER SON OVER 21 YEARS OLD DAUGHTER OVER 21 YEARS OLD

FATHER MOTHER BROTHER OVER 21 YEARS OLD SISTER OVER 21 YEARS OLD

RELATIONSHIP OTHER THAN ABOVE *(Specify)* _____

HAVING FAMILIARIZED MYSELF WITH THE OPTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO ME WITH RESPECT TO THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF THE DECEASED DESIGNATED ABOVE, NOW DO DECLARE THAT IT IS MY DESIRE THAT THE REMAINS: *(Please place an "X" in the box opposite the option you have selected.)*

1. BE INTERRED IN A PERMANENT AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY OVERSEAS.

2. BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES OR ANY POSSESSION OR TERRITORY THEREOF FOR INTERMENT BY NEXT OF KIN IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY

(NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY)

3. BE RETURNED TO _____ (FOREIGN COUNTRY), THE HOMETLAND OF THE DECEASED OR NEXT OF KIN, FOR INTERMENT BY NEXT OF KIN IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY LOCATED AT _____ (LOCATION OF CEMETERY SELECTED)

4. BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FINAL INTERMENT IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY, LOCATED AT _____ (LOCATION OF NATIONAL CEMETERY SELECTED)

(Please indicate if your own religious services at a location other than the selected national cemetery are desired by placing an "X" in the proper box)

YES NO

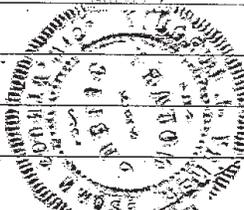
THE NAME OF THE DECEASED, THE SERIAL NUMBER AND GRADE ARE CORRECT EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: *(If no corrections are necessary, indicate this fact by inserting the word "NONE" in the space below.)*

NONE

Dmc 1
29 AUG 1948

22

20 Aug 48
Smith



DD FORM 1300, 14 NOV 1946 **345 MILITARY** PAGE 1

16-50411-1
30 JUL 1948

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Request for Disposition of Remains, James Vrtatko

United States Department of the Army

PART I (Continued)

If on Page 1 of this form you have selected Option Number 2 or 3, or Option Number 4 with you have funeral ceremonies desired at a location other than the selected national cemetery, complete one of these sections.

I, AS THE NEXT OF KIN, DO FURTHER DECLARE THAT I DESIRE THE REMAINS TO BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING PERSON WHO HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THEM:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY OR PROVINCE
EXPRESS OFFICE (<i>Nearest railroad passenger station</i>)	TELEGRAPH ADDRESS	STATE OR TERRITORY OF U. S. A., OR COUNTRY
		TELEPHONE NO.

OR

I, AS THE NEXT OF KIN, DO FURTHER DECLARE THAT I DESIRE THE REMAINS TO BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING FUNERAL DIRECTOR WHO HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THEM:

FULL NAME OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR			
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY OR PROVINCE	STATE OR TERRITORY OF U. S. A., OR COUNTRY
EXPRESS OFFICE (<i>Nearest railroad passenger station</i>)	TELEGRAPH ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.	

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NEXT IN LINE OF KINSHIP AFTER ME, AS SET FORTH IN THE PAMPHLET, "DISPOSITION OF WORLD WAR II ARMED FORCES DEAD," IS:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY OR PROVINCE	STATE OR TERRITORY OF U. S. A., OR COUNTRY

REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS (*For additional space use page 4.*)

AS EXPLAINED IN THE PAMPHLET, "DISPOSITION OF WORLD WAR II ARMED FORCES DEAD," I AM THE NEXT OF KIN AND THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO DIRECT THE DISPOSITION OF THE SAID REMAINS.

I, the undersigned, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) that the statements made by me in the foregoing document are full and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Barbara Vrtatko
(SIGNATURE OF NEXT OF KIN)

ROUTE 1, BOX 225
(STREET AND NUMBER)

BARBARA VRTATKO
(NAME PRINTED OR TYPED)

DENMARK, WISCONSIN
(CITY AND STATE)

Subscribed and duly sworn to before me according to law by the above-named applicant this 12th day of May, 1951, at city (or town) of Green Bay, county of Brown, and State (or Territory or District) of Wisconsin.

Henry J. Lurgain
(SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER OATHS)

Notary Public Brown County Wis
(OFFICIAL TITLE)

*NOTE.—Page 4 is part of the notarial attestation.

PAGE 2

My Commission Expires July 8, 1951 16-50411-1